

# The Baptist Record

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## Missionaries Must Adjust

# Inflation Abroad Skyrockets; Mission Funds Feel Pinch

By Mary Ann Ward

RICHMOND (BP) — Many Americans are outraged about inflation. Some are seriously suffering. Most simply pay the new price, "bite the bullet," and go their merry way.

For many Southern Baptist missionaries, the problem is much more serious.

They have to pay exorbitant prices for some goods purchased overseas—\$2.12 for a box of cornflakes in Ethiopia, \$1.51 for a 15-ounce can of corn in the Ivory Coast, \$2.50 a pound for hamburger in Tokyo, and almost one dollar for either a can of frozen orange juice or a box of facial tissues in the Bahamas.

High prices for a few items don't begin to tell the story, though. Many factors, including the devaluation of the American dollar, greatly increased oil prices, inflation in the United States and other countries, have hit the missionary where it hurts—his or her billfold.

The Foreign Mission board has had to budget \$3.5 million more for 1975 to support missionaries than it did in 1974.

While some prices in other countries might not seem too bad by United States' standards, they still are devastating to missionary morale. If a housewife here could take a shopping spree in the Philippines she'd find bananas are three cents each — a

real bargain. To her maybe — but the missionary says, "Not so." Last year bananas were a penny a piece — inflation at 200 percent.

In the Ivory Coast one kilo (about 2.2 pounds) of rice had gone up to 74 cents in August from 38 cents in January. Mrs. James W. Smith in Israel said the medium jar of mayonnaise that cost 45 cents in January was \$1.20 in September, before a recent devaluation of Israel's currency.

Herbert D. Billings in Guatemala reported electricity jumped 96 percent on October 1. In Ethiopia, the land rover purchased by the mission for \$7,000 five years ago now costs \$14,000.

In some countries missionaries pay prices equivalent to the United States, but they're also affected by inflation because in many of those places it wasn't too long ago when

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## Educators Study Expanding Cooperation With Missions

DALLAS — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) educators from across the nation, in three days of meetings here, heard reports of growing cooperative ministries between Baptist educational institutions and SBC missions and confronted issues facing Baptist education.

The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, made up of 71 Southern Baptist educational institutions, and the SBC's Education Commission, which serves as liaison between the SBC and those schools, met at the Fairmont Hotel here in conjunction with the sessions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Education Commission voted to hold a National Colloquium on Baptist Education in June, 1976, in Williamsburg, Virginia, the week prior to the annual meeting of the 12.3-million member SBC in Norfolk, Virginia, and honored an outgoing member.

G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, for 23 years, received a special plaque for his 14 years of service on the Education Commission, the longest tenure of any Commission member. Guinn, who served as Commission chairman, 1973-74, has announced early retirement from Louisiana College to become professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, in January.

William G. Tanner, current Commission chairman and president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, reported successful conversations with Home Mission Board leaders about expanding cooperative efforts between the Commission and Southern Baptist schools to further the SBC's missions and evangelism efforts throughout the United States.

Preliminary ideas include informing students of needs and channeling them into Home Mission Board ministries, possible establishment of interterms on college campuses led by Home Mission Board personnel and idea exchanges.

Tanner suggested an exploratory meeting with the Education Commission, the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, and the Home Mission Board to discuss areas of interaction.



G. Earl Guinn, left, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, listens as William G. Tanner, chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission and president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, pays tribute to him for 14 years of service on the Education Commission, the longest tenure of any member.

## Five With Mississippi Backgrounds Appointed For Foreign Mission Service

RICHMOND — Rev. and Mrs. O. Errol Simmons, Rev. and Mrs. Jerry B. White, and Miss Roberta Ann (Robbie) Crissey were among 23 missionaries appointed Dec. 10 during a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board.

Rev. and Mrs. Simmons will be assigned to music evangelism in Spain.

They are currently living in Panama City, Fla., where he is the associate minister with music responsibilities at First Church. Mrs. Simmons teaches junior high school in nearby Lynn Haven, Fla.

Simmons was born in Baton Rouge, La., and grew up in Franklinton. He attended Southeastern Louisiana College (now University), Hammond, and was graduated from William Carey College with the bachelor of music degree. He also received the master of church music degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Simmons has been minister of music and youth at First Church, Sanford, Fla., and minister of music and education at Heights Church, Pensacola, Fla. He was also minister of music at Gulf Gardens Church, Gulfport; Glendale Church, Hattiesburg; and Edon Baptist Church, Stringer.

Mrs. Simmons, the former Mary Ishee, was born in Jones County, Miss., and grew up near Laurel. She received the bachelor of science degree in home economics from Wil-

liam Carey College. She also attended Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, and Mississippi Southern College, Hattiesburg. She has taught school in Pensacola and Sanford.

They have three children, Julia Lynn, born in 1961; David Errol, 1962; and Susan Kathryn, 1968.

Rev. and Mrs. White will be assigned to Korea where he will teach children of missionaries.

They are currently living in Tyler-town, where he has been pastor of

Dinan Baptist Church since 1967 and she is a counselor in the high school. He is also a teacher in Franklinton, Louisiana.

A native of Marion County, White considers Columbia as his hometown. He was graduated from William Carey College with the bachelor of arts degree in social studies and education and from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, with the master of education degree in school (Continued On Page 2)

## The Members and Employees of THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Extend to All of Our Readers

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

## Ends 25 Years At Baptist Bldg.

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

When I came to work with the Record in 1953, Dr. A. L. Goodrich walked with me to an office, in the rear corner of the old Baptist Building, to introduce another staff member. "Miss Washburn," he said, "this is Joe Abrams." A tall, very thin fellow greeted me with a warm smile and friendly handshake.

You've met Joe Abrams, too. I expect, for he has travelled to Baptist meetings in every county of the state, and in practically every state in the country. There's a good chance that he has taken your picture at some convention, association, or ceremony.

For 25 years he has worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board—two years with Training Union and 23 with the Baptist Record. Since 1951 he has been director of Mississippi Baptist News Service and since 1956 he has been associate editor of the Record.

On November 30 he was 68 — so this week he is retiring. He says, "If I had a choice, I'd rather keep working, but since there are rules, I am willing to accept them, without complaint or regret."

However, he has no intention of quitting. He expects to be available for pulpits supply and/or interim pastorates. Possibly he will do some writing. He will contribute toward the work of the Public Relations Committee of First Church, Clinton, where he is a member and has been since he moved to Clinton 23 years ago. "The Lord has led all these years," he says, "and I don't think he will stop now, just because I'm retiring."

"I'm grateful that I've been blessed with good health," he continues. He has missed less than ten days, because of illness, in the past 23 years. Once eleven years passed without his taking a single day of sick leave. His vision is still close to 20-20 and he has never worn glasses.

With three Convention Board meetings a year, he has missed only one since 1951. He has missed only one Southern Baptist Convention since 1951, and attended several before that time. He has not missed a state Baptist convention or state student convention in 23 years, and has missed only two WMU conventions in that time.

Though he's been in Mississippi since the age of twenty, he was born in Greenville, Alabama, November

30, 1906, the son of Joe and Judy Moore Abrams. His father was, in succession, a stock dealer (in horses), a restaurant operator, and a highway department worker.

His only brother, four years younger than he, died several years ago. When Joe was four the family moved to Georgiana, Alabama, where he graduated from high school. His interest in newspaper work began while he was in high school, when he worked for the weekly paper in Georgiana. After graduation, in answer to a newspaper ad, he started work for a weekly paper in Starkville. After a short time, though, in 1926 he moved to Columbus to work for the daily Commercial Dispatch.

In Columbus he met his wife-to-be; he was elected a deacon at age 23; and he decided to enter the ministry. At First Baptist Church he met Lillian Stinson in BYPU in 1927. They were married April 27, 1929, in the home of the pastor, Dr. J. D. Franks, who performed the ceremony.

Joe was elected a deacon in 1930, the youngest in the church at the time. Other church responsibilities kept him busy, too. At various times he was Training Union director, assoc-

## Tatum Takes Post At Southwestern

FORT WORTH (BP) — Scott L. Tatum, pastor of the Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., for the past 23 years, has been named a professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary, according to Seminary President Robert E. Naylor.

Tatum currently serves as a member of the board of trustees of the Sunday School Board, which he formerly chaired, and is a former member of the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees.

Prior to assuming leadership of the Shreveport church, Tatum was pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, Tex., and also served as pastor of Texas Baptist churches in Hubbard and Canton.

During Tatum's 23 years of service at the Shreveport church membership increased from 1,200 to over 4,000. Programs devised by Tatum at the church include an internship pro-

(Continued On Page 8)

## Joe Abrams' Retirement Set For Dec. 31

Rev. Joe Abrams, associate editor of the Baptist Record since 1956, will retire from that post Dec. 31, according to D. Earl Kelly, executive secretary - treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mr. Abrams has completed a tenure of 25 years service with the board, having served prior to 1956 as director of promotion, associate in the Church Training Department, and on the staff of the Baptist Record.

He has also been director of the Mississippi Baptist News Service since 1951.

When asked about his plans for the future, he said that he would continue to live at his home in Clinton and be available for church pulpits supply and interim pastorates anywhere in the state.

Mr. Abrams, a native of Alabama, came to the board from the pastorate of the Shuqualak Baptist Church.

Churches served earlier as pastor were the Artesia and Mt. Vernon churches in Lowndes County.

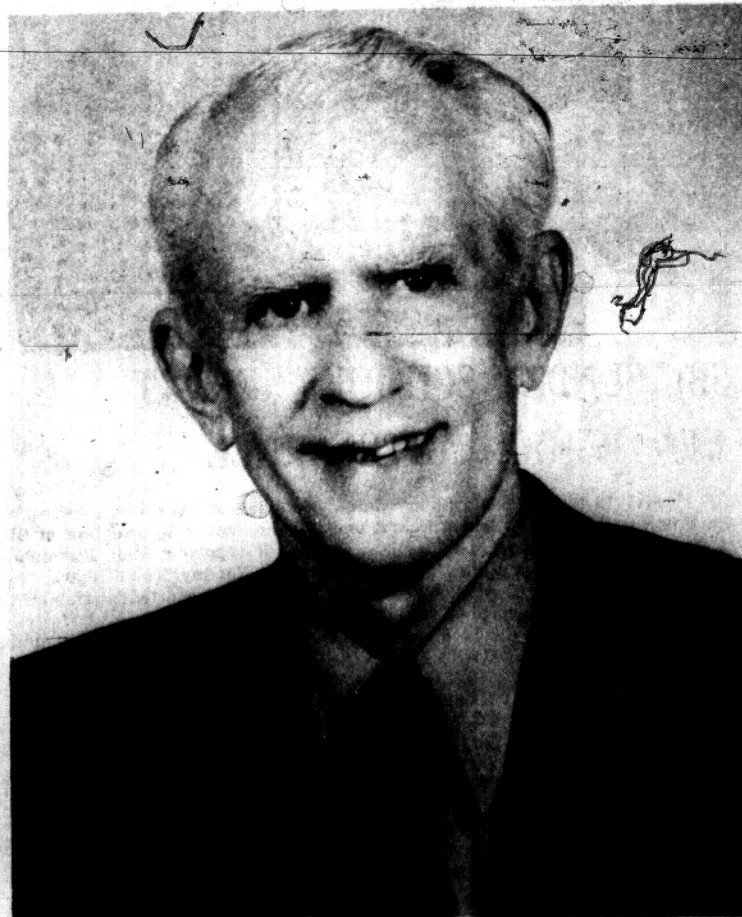
Prior to entering the ministry he was an employee of the Commercial Dispatch in Columbus and active as a layman in the First Baptist Church there.

Mr. Abrams served as chairman of the Mississippi committee for preparation of copy for the first two volumes of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

Active in Southern Baptist Convention affairs, he was the first president of the Baptist Public Relations Association and a member of the former SBC 30,000 Committee. He has also contributed articles to numerous denominational publications.

Around 1935 he began to get calls

(Continued On Page 3)





# Inflation Abroad Skyrockets

(Continued From Page 1)  
prices were much less than state-side prices.

**Make Adjustments**  
What are missionary families doing to adjust to changing economic patterns? Robert L. Stanley in the Philippines reports that most missionary families in Manila are using air conditioners sparingly and are turning hot water heaters on only once or twice a week because electricity is so expensive.

G. Edwin Engstrom, who directs a dormitory for missionary children in Manila, said the dorm has eliminated use of all air conditioners and only turns on the hot water two nights a week.

Missionaries in the Ivory Coast also buy wholesale. When they found food companies would sell wholesale to missionaries as a group, they began buying food by the case and dividing it among the mission families.

**Bargain Hunting**  
The wife must spend her time bargain-hunting in order to feed and clothe the family," said Mrs. Charles V. Whaley Jr., missionary to Japan.

Mrs. Martin said missionaries seldom do the quick thing because it's

usually the most expensive thing. This means instead of using frozen and convenience foods, meals must be prepared from scratch.

"We don't just walk in, look in the freezer and set out a quickie meal," she said.

Although all missionary wives have "homemaker" in their job description, time spent shopping for bargains and cooking meals from scratch (making bread instead of buying it, making their own mayonnaise, using fresh vegetables instead of cans or frozen, etc.) is time that most would rather spend doing some ministry-related task.

Cost-of-living adjustments are a standard part of the Foreign Mission Board's missionary support structure, according to Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division.

The amount of the supplement is determined in relation to different costs-of-living in different settings. Crawley said. Currency exchange rates, availability of goods and services, differences in living patterns and rates of inflation are taken in account to determine the amount of income adjustment for missionaries in each country. The basic intention of

the board, Crawley said, is to provide and maintain for each field roughly the same basic purchasing power for missionaries.

**Kept Up**  
Missionary James O. Teel Jr. in Argentina said the board has kept up with the times. "In spite of run-away inflation and complicated matters of exchange and cost-of-living within each country," he said, "somehow cost-of-living adjustments are made in time to avert dire financial difficulties for missionaries. I am grateful for this, and for the fact that the Foreign Mission Board has remained on such a sound financial basis."

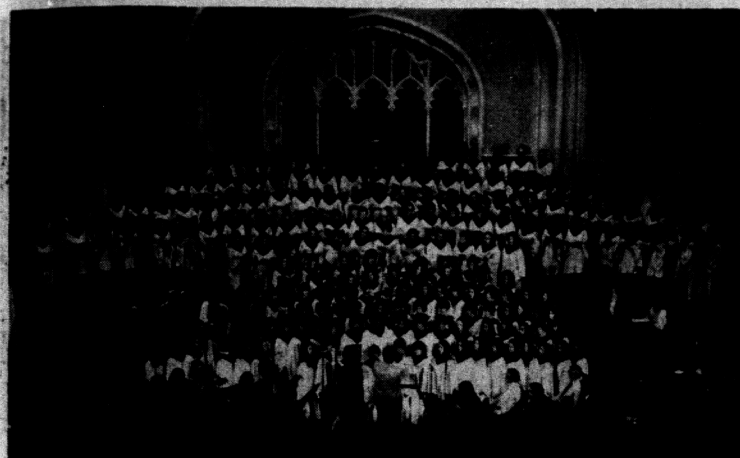
Ordinarily, cost-of-living adjustments are made annually in the operating budget. But when inflation or decline in exchange rate is as much as eight to 10 per cent in a calendar year, Crawley said, the board may take emergency action.

Even then, Robert Stanley (Philippines) said inflation is so rapid now that "adjustments seldom can be made quickly enough to avoid some budget-stretching."

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne L. Hasenmayer in Japan were hindered in their evangelistic outreach when they couldn't begin work on time. They finished language school in Tokyo and planned to move directly into pioneer evangelism on the northern island of Hokkaido. Their move was delayed because of rising construction costs of their home. "Their simple house with three small bedrooms cost 300 per cent as much as it would have cost seven years ago," according to Mrs. Whaley.

What the board does and will do in the future is up to Southern Baptists. "History has indicated that Southern Baptist giving has run slightly ahead of inflation in the United States, but in worldwide inflation, we're losing ground," said Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the board's mission support division.

"We have only one safety valve and that's proportional giving by Southern Baptists," he said.



## "Carols By Candlelight"—December 22

The fifth annual presentation of "Carols by Candlelight" will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra of First Church, Jackson Sunday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. The choir and orchestra will be directed by Larry Black, Minister of Music, and narration will be presented by Frank Pollard, pastor. "Carols by Candlelight" begins with a candlelight procession of the 185 member Sanctuary Choir and concludes with the choir, congregation and orchestra singing Malotte's "Lord's Prayer." Also during the presentation, testimonies of what the Christ of Christmas means will be given by choir members.

## What For Christmas?

What do you want for Christmas?  
How many times have you asked this question of your wife or husband or children?  
How many times has this question been asked of you?  
The very nature of the question says something about our age and perhaps something about our observance of the Christmas season. What?  
What could denote a frame of mind or perhaps even an attitude, but what usually refers to a thing, or object, a bauble, a box, a beautiful thing—which can be seen by the eye, touched by the hand or even smelled by the nose.  
What?  
What reflects our priorities. What reflects our real love too often. What really tells us something about ourselves.  
Could we ever ask — Who?  
Who tells us about people—about relationship.  
Who reflects the word of the angel:  
"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;  
"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

—Porter Routh  
THE BAPTIST PROGRAM  
December, 1974



Of the 23 missionaries appointed Dec. 10 during a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, five have ties in Mississippi. They are (left to right) Rev. and Mrs. O. Errol Simmons, assigned to Spain; Miss Roberta Ann Crissey, to South America; and Rev. and Mrs. Jerry B. White, to Korea.

## Missionaries Appointed

(Continued From Page 1)

administration. He also attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bay Springs, Miss., Bay Springs Mission (now Church); and New Concord Church, Ross Hill. He has also been a teacher at West Marion High School in Foxworth, and in the public schools of Bay Springs and Sumrall.

Mrs. White, the former Glenda Hix, was born in Montrose and grew up in Bay Springs. She was graduated from Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, with the associate of arts degree and from William Carey College with the bachelor of arts degree in English and education. She also received the master of education degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Southern Mississippi and has attended New Orleans seminary.

She has taught in the public schools of Tylertown, Bay Springs, Bassfield, and Biloxi. While in college she was twice a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Arizona and Oklahoma, and she spent one summer do-

ing mission work in Michigan for the Home Mission Board while employed at another job.

They have three children: James Terry, born in 1964; Stephen Andrew, 1967; and Patricia Cheryl, 1969.

Miss Crissey will receive a religious education or social work assignment in South America.

She is currently living in Laurel, Md., where she is director of the day school at First Church.

A native of Florida, Miss Crissey was born in Deland and grew up in Lake Worth. She was graduated from Blue Mountain College with the bachelor of arts degree in social science and from New Orleans Seminary with the master of religious education degree. She also attended Louisiana College in Pineville.

She was camp director and program coordinator for St. Mark's Community Center in New Orleans following seminary graduation. She also spent one summer on the faculty in the children's building at Glorieta Baptist Assembly (now Conference Center).

## Twenty-Third Youth Night of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Dec. 30, 7 p.m.

Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson Program

- 6:45 Instrumental Music ..... Jerry Aultman, Darrell Boggs
- 6:50 Share His Love Through Group Singing ..... Congregation and Mass Choir
- 7:10 Assurance ..... Young Men's Quartet
- 7:25 Share His Love Through Scripture and Prayer  
—1 Corinthians 13:1-13: Kim Boone, Quitman High School, Quitman  
—Prayer: ..... Ray Jones, Pearson Baptist Church, Pearl  
—Romans 8:35-39: Lisa Brannan, Gulf Coast Jr. College, Perkinston  
—Prayer: ..... Mike Steen, Northeast Jr. College, Booneville  
—Matthew 28:16-20: ..... Judy Sumrall, Delta State University, Cleveland
- Prayer: ..... Michael Thompson, Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven
- 7:35 Turning Point ..... Musical Group
- 7:50 Testimony ..... Summer Student Missionary ..... Richard F. Wilson  
Mississippi College
- 7:55 All State Choir ..... Dan C. Hall, Director
- 8:00 Share His Love Through Group Singing ..... Congregation and Mass Choir
- 8:10 "How We Need Each Other" ..... Larry Walker
- 9:15 Benediction ..... Earl Kelly
- Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention

## N. O. Seminary Schedules Interterm For January 7-17

NEW ORLEANS — Scheduled for the Jan. 7-17 interterm at New Orleans Baptist Seminary here are courses on preaching, religious writing, Christian living, working with youth, and the gospel of John. Headlining the guest instructors for the two-week mini-term will be preacher-professors Dr. Kenneth Chafin and Dr. Clyde Fant; two editors, Dr. Clifton J. Allen and the Rev. Sherwood E. Wirt; and personnel from various departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville.

Dr. Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., and Dr. Fant, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex., will join New Orleans Seminary professor Dr. V. L. Stanfield for a preaching workshop. Both Dr. Chafin and Dr. Fant formerly taught at Southern Baptist Seminary.

"Witnessing through Writing" will feature Dr. Allen, former editorial secretary of the BSSB, education and publication arm of the Southern Baptist Convention; Wirt, editor of "Decision" magazine; and NOBTS professor Dr. J. Terry Young, former editor of the "California Southern Baptist," a Baptist state paper.

Seminary professors Dr. Malcolm O. Tolbert and Dr. Fisher H. Humphreys will conduct a course on "Christian Living Today."

Also on the agenda for the daytime interterm courses will be a youth ministries workshop led by NOBTS professor Dr. S. J. Watson and a team

of guest instructors. Joining Dr. Watson will be Harry Cowan, minister of music at First Baptist Church, New Orleans; Tommy Dixon, consultant in the youth section of the church training department, BSSB; Nilon Elliott, church recreation department, BSSB; James L. Minton, minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.; and Dr. Bob Taylor, youth ministry coordinator, church administration department, BSSB.

Open to college graduates only, the daytime courses will meet four hours daily, from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Two semester hours of seminary credit may be earned during the sessions. Cost per course is \$12.50, plus textbooks.

The evening section, "John," will be taught by Dr. Ray Robbins of the seminary faculty. An offering of the Seminary Extension Department (SED), "John" will be open to anyone who has graduated from high school; it will meet two hours daily, from 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Credit may be applied to SED certificates or toward specific programs at a number of colleges. The cost of \$12.50 includes textbooks.

Interterm provides a continuing education opportunity for pastors, pastors' wives, church staff members, and other interested persons who cannot enroll as full-time students.

For further information, contact Dr. George C. Herndon, Registrar, 3930 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126



## New Foundation Officers

New officers for the Mississippi Baptist Foundation were elected during the annual luncheon meeting. Left to right, they are Rev. Carey Cox, Jackson, executive secretary; D. L. Simmons Sr., Jackson, executive committee member; E. L. Herring, Jackson, president of the board of trustees; Charles Lofton, Brookhaven, executive committee member; A. L. Boone, Winona, chairman of the executive committee; and J. W. Barfield, Jackson, vice-president of the board of trustees.

## Mrs. Leavell Dies In N. O.

NEW ORLEANS — Mrs. Roland Q. Leavell, 72, widow of the president of New Orleans Seminary from 1946 to 1958, died Friday, Dec. 13, in Baptist Hospital here following a heart attack.

Her death came 11 days after her nephew, Dr. Landrum Leavell II of Wichita Falls, Tex., was named president of the seminary, effective Jan. 1.

Under her husband's twelve-year administration, New Orleans Seminary built a new \$6-million campus and moved from cramped quarters in the Garden District to 75 acres of land in the Gentilly area. Also

during Dr. Leavell's tenure, the School of Theology was accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools, enrollment tripled from 331 to 1,087, and the faculty increased from 15 to 30.

A native of Jackson, Miss., Lillian Yarborough Leavell earned the bachelor of arts degree at Mississippi Woman's College (now William Carey College) in Hattiesburg, Miss. Her alma mater honored her in 1960 by naming her outstanding alumnus of the year. She also served on the college's board of trustees.

Active in church affairs, Mrs. Leavell served on the state executive board of the Woman's Missionary Union in Georgia and Louisiana, and headed local W.M.U. chapters at Baptist churches in Atlanta, Ga.; Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans.

While her husband was seminary president, Mrs. Leavell conducted forums for ministers' wives and lectured in colleges on "Love, Courtship, and Marriage" and "The Christian Home."

As a hobby, Mrs. Leavell wrote

## St. Louis Church On CBS-TV Dec. 24

Third Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri will be on CBS-TV Network from Coast to Coast on Christmas Eve 11:30 to 12:00 PM (ST).

This will be a "Living Christmas Tree" musical, a "live" telecast from the sanctuary of the Third Baptist Church.

The peopled Christmas tree will celebrate the story of the season in secular and sacred music. Seventy-seven singers accompanied by instruments as diverse as flutes and guitars will sing the praises of Christmas.

## Registration For ETV Classes At BMC, Jan. 6

Registration for both evening classes and classes through educational television at Blue Mountain College will be held, January 6.

Registration for evening classes will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Paschal Student Center. The schedule now calls for the classes to meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 - 9:30 beginning January 13, 1975.

Courses available for credit through ETV, Channel 12 will include Human Communications I, Consumer Education and Cultural Anthropology.

Persons interested in ETV classes may register on January 6, 1975 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All classes are open to anyone 18 years of age or older and to High School seniors who have at least a B average and the approval of their respective school principal.

Tuition for both type classes is \$30.00 per semester hour for regular and reserve credit. Non-credit cost is \$15.00 per semester hour.

## First, Long Beach To Present 'Christmas Festival'

This year Long Beach's First Church adult choir, of more than fifty voices, an instrumental accompaniment, of over twenty pieces, will present "A Christmas Festival," directed by Charles Red, minister of music.

This contemporary work is arranged from some 22 Christmas carols and spirituals. The orchestral accompaniment includes brass, woodwinds, percussion, organ and piano.

The presentation will be in the new Worship Center on Fifth Street behind the educational building, just off Jeff Davis Avenue.

Dr. Gail DeBord, pastor, invites the public.

poetry and hymns. One of her texts, "We Lift Our Hearts in Songs of Praise," will appear in the "Baptist Hymnal (1975)" when it is released in March.

Following her husband's death in 1963 after nearly 40 years of marriage, Mrs. Leavell took up permanent residence on the seminary campus and became director of the women's division of the NOBTS Board of Development.

In an interview at the seminary earlier this year, Mrs. Leavell commented: "I don't fear death; I see it as a transition, a translation to eternity. I think it will be the greatest experience of all."

She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Wesley Bowman of Alexandria, La.; Mrs. William Maynard Fountain Jr. of Baton Rouge, La.; Mrs. Carl Allen Hudson of Bunkie, La., and 9 grandchildren.

Burial services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, in Oxford, Miss. A special memorial service will be conducted Monday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. in Leavell Chapel on the seminary campus, with Dr. Landrum Leavell officiating.



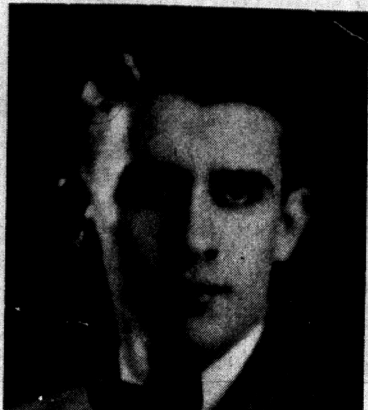
## SBC SUNDAY SCHOOLS REPORT

### 4,409,136 HIGH ATTENDANCE

NASHVILLE — A. V. Washburn (left), secretary of the Sunday School department at the Sunday School Board, and Eugene Skelton, coordinator of High Attendance Celebration Sunday, check figures of reporting state conventions before posting them on a chart in the lobby at the Sunday School Board. Total enrollment for all SBC schools was 7,182,550 with a reported attendance of 4,409,136, or 61.4%. Several of the states are listed below:

State	Enrolled	Goal	Reported	Enrollment
Alabama	519,264		329,000	63.0%
Arkansas	215,927		136,500	64.2%
California	434,318	300,000	235,000	54.2%
Florida	577,977		367,000	63.5%
Georgia	362,728		187,500	51.7%
Illinois	273,189	170,000	140,000	51.2%
Indiana	316,812	225,000	180,142	57.2%
Iowa	11,597		6,500	56.1%
Kansas	10,600	8,000	7,500	70.8%
Mississippi	402,201		254,148	63.2%
Missouri	521,885	400,000	336,304	64.5%
Nebraska	1,091,733	800,000	615,438	56.4%





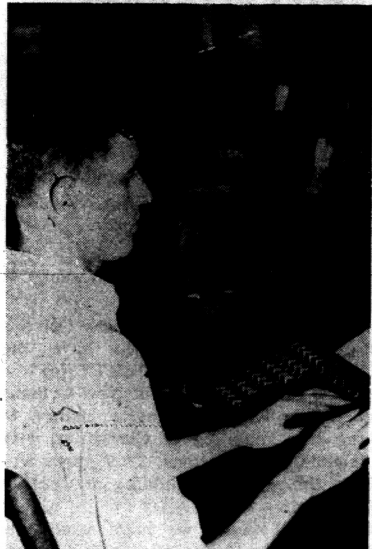
Joe Abrams, in January, 1929



Joe Abrams' high school graduation class at Georgiana, Alabama, 1924. He is on the back row, at far left.



In 1932 he is shown with the deacons and pastor of First Church, Columbus, and Dr. George Truett. Mr. Abrams, then the youngest deacon at the church, is back row, third from left. Dr. Truett is front row, center, and Dr. J. D. Franks, pastor is on the row behind Dr. Truett and to his left.



Joe at the linotype — Commercial Dispatch, Columbus.



TRAINING UNION DEPARTMENT, MCB in 1947: Back row, Auber J. Wilds, department secretary, left, and Joe Abrams, associate. Front row, Miss Allene Johnson, office secretary (now Mrs. D. P. Dabbs of Shannon); Miss Louise Hill, associate (now Mrs. Calcolin F. Miller of Little Rock, Ms.); and Miss Clarice Conner, associate (now Mrs. M. C. Waldrup of Blue Mountain College staff).



Joe and Lillian Abrams in Georgiana, Alabama, shortly after their Columbus, Mississippi wedding, April 27, 1929.



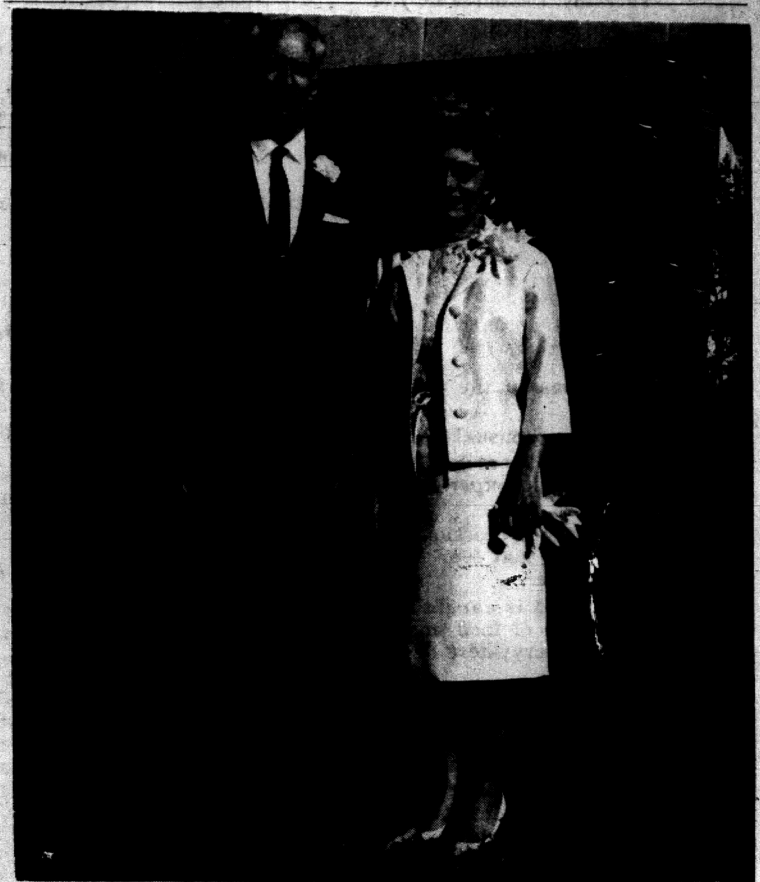
Joe Abrams is pictured with the late W. N. Puckett, Sunday School superintendent at First, Columbus, for 33 years. At the time the picture was made Joe had just been elected associate Sunday School superintendent.



Joe Abrams was elected program chairman of the Baptist Public Relations Association in 1966 in Kansas City. (He was the organization's first president.) With him are Dave Morris, president; Floyd Craig; and John Boskas.



During a press convention in Washington, D. C., Joe Abrams, center, and Norman Gough, right, met Fishell Miller, Mississippian, and doorkeeper in the House of Representatives.



Rev. and Mrs. Joe Abrams at their daughter Shirley's wedding, in 1966, First Church, Clinton. He performed the ceremony.



Mr. Abrams, at left, elected associate editor of the Baptist Record in 1956, continued in that position after Dr. Odle, seated, above, became editor.



While Dr. Chester Quarles and Dr. A. L. Goodrich were in Europe six weeks in the summer of 1955, W. R. Roberts was named acting executive secretary and Joe Abrams was named acting editor. Left to right: Roberts, Quarles, Goodrich, Abrams.



The Baptist Record changed to offset press in the late '50's. Pictured with the new press at Thornton Publishers are Dr. W. C. Fields, editor, 1956-59; the late Duke Thornton, printer; J. E. Lane, business manager of the Baptist Record for many years; and Joe Abrams, associate editor.



Joe Abrams (left) is one of the photographers on the scene at the "topping out" of the new Baptist Hospital.

## Ends 25 Years At Baptist Bldg.

(Continued From Page 1)

to speak in associational meetings and in churches, as a lay preacher. Then in 1942 he became supply pastor of Artesia and Mt. Vernon churches. Even as Dr. Franks was playing an important role in Mississippi Baptist life, at this point he played an important part in Joe's life. He spoke to the leaders at Artesia and asked them why they didn't call Joe as pastor and get him "off the fence." Joe felt that this was the Lord's way of calling him to preach, and when the church did call him he accepted. At the request of the Artesia congregation, First, Columbus, ordained him in 1943. After serving Artesia and Mt. Vernon for a while, he in 1945 was called to Shuqualak Church.

One night in 1946 when Joe was attending a countywide study at Macon, Auber J. Wilds, state Training Union secretary, sought him out and asked him if he would consider becoming an associate in the TU Department. He accepted. Thus began his service with MCB. Continuing to live in Columbus, he travelled widely for the next 20 months, in field work across the state. Then he returned to the pastorate of Shuqualak for four more years.

In March, 1951, he was appointed by the Board as TU associate and press representative. In November of that year he was officially elected by the convention as state director of promotion, with part of his responsibility to lie in work with the Baptist Record. As director of promotion he was in charge of the tract ministry for a while, and also led in the promotion of stewardship materials, before there was a Stewardship Department. Also, in an interim when there was no evangelism director, he led in the promotion of evangelism materials.

When Joe came to the Convention Board from the Columbus Dispatch, Birney Imes, publisher of the paper, said in a statement published in the Baptist Record at the time:

"Joe has something more than an amazing skill, speed and accuracy in the operation of a linotype. He has character of the highest order. He is loyal and faithful and devoted to every trust. He is dependable and trustworthy, and as an employee of the composing room of the Commercial Dispatch he was a stabilizing and wholesome influence. He enjoyed the esteem and respect of all his associates. There isn't a finer character on earth than Joe Abrams. His consecrated Christian life, his high ideas

and his lofty principles have endeared him to all who have come under the influence and the benediction of his life."

Through his 23 years with the Record he has worked with three editors, Dr. Goodrich, Dr. Fields, and Dr. Odle. When Dr. Goodrich died in March, 1956, Joe was acting editor until Dr. Fields came as editor that summer. When Dr. Fields resigned, in 1959, to go to Nashville, Joe was acting editor until Dr. Odle took over the position later in the year. He was elected associate editor when Dr. Fields became editor and has continued in that capacity since.

At the state Baptist Convention this fall, Dr. Odle presented to Joe a plaque in appreciation for his years of service. He said that Joe might well be called "Mr. Baptist Record" and explained his statement by saying:

"He has helped to prepare at least 1150 issues of the paper. He has done the layout for hundreds of front pages. He has written thousands of news stories and tens of thousands of headlines and cutlines. He has taken hundreds of pictures. He has driven thousands of miles."

"At the same time, in public relations he has served as editor of the Miss. Baptist Press. From his pen have gone thousands of words in hundreds of press releases. He has built for the convention the very finest possible relationship with the news media of the state. Editors and reporters trust him, and his stories have been used widely all across the state, and in others."

"When the Radio Baptist News reports were being sent to Mississippi stations by the Radio and Television Commission the news material was prepared by Joe."

He was a charter member and the first president of the Baptist Public Relations Association which was organized in 1954 in St. Louis, with around 20 members, and which now has over 217 members. Last year that association voted to present to him a plaque for twenty years of devoted service.

He was chairman of the Mississippi Committee for preparation of 32,000 words of copy for the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists (serving with Dr. C. B. Hamlet and the late J. L. Boyd.)

He was a contributor to A History of Mississippi Baptists by Dr. R. A. McLemore, published in 1971. In addition, he has contributed articles to various publications of the BSSB. He and his wife enjoy travelling to

gether and have visited most of the fifty states, including two trips to Hawaii. In 1968 he attended the Pan-American Baptist Layman's Evangelism Conference in Rio, stopping along the way in Peru, Colombia, and Argentina.

"Some wives don't like their husbands underfoot after they retire," Joe says, "but I don't think mine will think of me as a problem!" Indeed, they do give the impression of enjoying each other's company very much. In fact, he tells me that the whole year before they were married they had nine dates a week! Figure that one out.

They have three children and two grandchildren. Their son, Joe Abrams, III of Moorhead, is head of the Fine Arts Department of Mississippi Delta Junior College, and part-time music director at Second Church, Indianola. He studied at USM, graduated from MCB, and earned Master's degrees from both USM and Ole Miss. Their eldest daughter, Mary Lillian (Mrs. Pat Kelley) is married to a Jackson businessman. A graduate of MCB, she's a talented musician, and has been church organist at First, Pascagoula, First, Clinton, and Daniel Memorial, Jackson. Their youngest daughter, Shirley, is Mrs. John Young of St. Louis. Her husband is an advanced student in the Logan School of Chiropractic. Shirley attended MSCV, graduated from Patricia Stevens Career College in St. Louis, and works for Delta Airlines.

Joe likes music — especially Lawrence Welk. One of his hobbies is taking his wife's picture with celebrities like Anita Bryant and Jeannie C. Riley. He likes good food, and no matter how much he eats he never gets fat! When I met him he could have won the award for "the thinnest man in Mississippi," and not until the last year or so has he added a pound.

At the Record's traditional Christmas dinner at Dr. Odle's, he is always full of jokes, the life of the party. And around the office his camaraderie keeps us out of the doldrums. We will miss his bright chatter. Though I've seen him terribly upset over printing errors, I've never seen him lose his temper with any staff member.

He and I and Dr. Odle, Evelyn Keyes, and Florence Larrimore, have worked together in the make-up of many, many issues of the Baptist Record, on many, many Mondays. Since I like to argue, and Joe likes to argue, we have spent many Mon-

day afternoons in friendly "pros and cons" while we pasted. Often, when I have wanted to try out some over-dramatic or maybe unwise idea for the paper, he with his common sense approach has brought me down to earth with his feeling of responsibility for the readers: How will Mississippi Baptists feel about this article? What is Convention Board policy about this question? Always he wants to play the game by the rules. He has often been kidded about one rule he strictly enforces. Like most preachers, to prevent idle gossip, he has made it a policy never to ride alone with a woman other than his wife. Once he even carried this so far as to leave Dr. Quarles' secretary in Tupelo to catch a bus while he drove to Jackson in a car by himself. Never was he allowed to forget it!

After so many issues of the paper, you would think our work would become boring. But it never does. Always we are ready to begin the next issue with zest, in the hope that in some ways we can make it better than the last. The associate editor shared in this feeling.

"Thank you, Mr. Abrams, for your 25 years of service to the MCB, and thank you for your kindness, your patience, your enthusiasm, your comradeship in publishing the Good News."

Happy retirement!



State papers booth, SBC



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL Christmas, 1974

It is Christmas in the year of our Lord, 1974.

It has been an unusual year. The nation has been through one of the most traumatic experiences of its history.

At the same time recession has crept upon the land, so that fear and gloom are common-place.

The whole world is caught up in the crisis of shortage of food and energy, so that leaders everywhere desperately seek solutions.

Continuous rumblings of war sound both from Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Moral depravity and crime threaten to engulf America.

Suffering and pain and trouble, still are the lot of great hosts of individuals

and families, even as it always has been through history.

It is at such a time that Christmas comes.

And Christmas always means hope! The prophet Isaiah said, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Darkness? Yes, there is much darkness in the world today. The person is blind who says that it is not so.

Yet, Christmas has come, and Christmas brings light for the darkness.

Christmas tells us that God loves us, and that He is concerned.

It tells us that no matter how dark the night, a new day is coming.

It proclaims anew the glad tidings of the Saviour who came into the world, died for men, rose again, has returned to glory, and is coming again. It also

reminds us that He is with us now.

When America was torn in the civil war, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote of how he heard the bells on Christmas day, and of how they reminded him that in an hour when there was no peace, the bells were saying "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail."

With peace on earth, good will to men."

We, in 1974, can still hear those bells. They remind us that God lives; that He is with us, and that no matter how deep the darkness, the light of Jesus Christ will overcome it all.

Our hope is not in human solution of all the world's problems.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ. That is the message of Christmas!



## Many Miss the Vertical Gift Exchange



### A Woman's World Reaches Far Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fancher

At our house we have had these three boys, you know.

They were born in a period of less than five years, so you can imagine all that has transpired between them in the years they have lived at our house. Keeping things reasonably settled in a reasonably impartial way has not always been possible, but we kept trying.

One thing we did when there began to be a constant three-way scramble for favorite chairs or places on the floor was to come to an agreement that if you got up to leave the place where you were with the intention of returning immediately — like after getting a cookie or drink of water or answering the phone, you must say, "This is still my place." Then nobody could claim it in your absence. Someone might sit there while you were gone, but had to get up without hassle when you returned. But if you didn't say it (and it included us adults, too), plan to sit somewhere else when you came back. Failure to say it meant "first sitter keeper," and the race to become first sitter was on the minute your back was turned. It worked. Even now some of us revert involuntarily to that habit and say, "Still my place." Then we laugh.

Several years ago when Dr. Odle told me he was going to use in column form some material I'd sent to him for evaluation, he told me he was going to use it because Dr. Chester Swor felt he could not prepare his column for a while, and my material would be used in place of his column.

Thus began "Beyond the Ironing Board." Back this past July Dr. Odle wrote me that Dr. Swor felt he could begin again in January to provide his column.

So this is the final "Beyond The Ironing Board."

In essence, Dr. Odle said, "This still is Dr. Swor's place." None of us anticipated I would write in it for these nearly five years, since February, 1970.

It's been a thoroughly delightful experience for me. All of my New Years will be happier because of these folders of letters I have from you, from all over the world, literally, the phone calls, and personal contacts I've recorded, and all the messages you've sent me by my husband when he preached in your churches, and by our boys when you have met them at school and work and play.

Dr. Swor, I've enjoyed being "in your place." I give it back to you, knowing I am much richer for having been in it. You are a great writer, and Mississippi Baptists are great readers, and that's a hard combination to beat.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: With this issue the Ironing Board goes back into the storage room. As indicated above, Mrs. Fancher has been writing the column for nearly five years. We are grateful to her for writing what has been one of the most popular features in the Record, and we say "Thank You" for the labor she has put into producing this material each week. With the second issue of January, Dr. Chester Swor will return to the Record, and his column will take the place of the "Ironing Board." Even as we say farewell to Mrs. Fancher, we say welcome back to Dr. Swor.—JTO)

tists — Thank you for your friendship and for sharing your lives with us. You will probably never know how much you mean to us.

Again to all — Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you. I see exciting times ahead for Mississippi Baptists and will be watching with great interest as you move forward in the Lord's work.

God bless you all,  
Jerry and Erle St. John

## Changing Of The Guard

One of the traditional sights when one visits London is the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. It is a colorful scene and almost always attracts crowds of tourists and other on-lookers.

We have come to a changing of the guard at the Baptist Record. The associate editor, Rev. Joe Abrams, who has been with the publication for twenty-three years, is retiring at the end of the year, and his successor, Rev. Don McGregor, assumes full responsibilities of the associate's office as the new year begins. While there will be no colorful ceremony, it is an important occasion.

Mr. Abrams has spent more than a quarter of a century in service to Mississippi Baptists as an employee of the Convention Board. He worked for two years as an associate in the Training Union department, before beginning his work with the Baptist Record in 1951. Except for the thirty years of service given to the publication by Dr. P. I. Lapey, this is the longest period that any person has worked for the paper in its 94-year history.

Retirement for Mr. Abrams comes on December 31, so his duties with the paper actually end with this issue. He has helped produce more than 1150 issues of the Record and has watched the circulation grow from about 70,000 in 1951, to the more than 118,000 of the present time.

"Joe" as he is affectionately known around the Baptist Building, and across the state, has been associated with three editors, Dr. A. L. Goodrich, Dr. W. C. Fields, and the present one. On three occasions, while Dr. Goodrich was on an extended tour, after Dr. Goodrich's death, and when Dr. Fields went to Nashville, he served brief periods as interim editor. In 1956 he was elected associate editor, and has continued in that position to the present.

For fifteen years it has been this editor's privilege to work with Joe, and no two men could have a closer or finer relationship through such a period. Together we have planned and published more than 750 issues of the Record, and we have rejoiced and thanked God together as we have watched the ministry of the publication continue to grow.

Joe and his Rolleiflex camera have become a familiar sight at Baptist meetings of all kinds all across the state, for he was taking pictures and

reporting not only for the Baptist Record but also for the Mississippi Baptist News Service which provided Baptist news coverage for the secular news media across the state, since he not only was associate editor, but also was public relations director for the Convention Board. With an uncanny ability to ferret out important people and things in the news, and the training and experience to organize and condense materials for the press, he has been able to keep events of Baptist life in the state, before the people both within and without the denomination.

Mr. Abrams and I have worked closely together week after week in planning each issue of the Baptist Record, determining materials to be used, and bringing the publication into form. Of course, we have been ably assisted in this by other members of the staff. Joe has had large responsibility in planning the front page of each issue, and in organizing the materials chosen to appear on it. General planning starts at the editor's desk, but associates must work out much of the detail.

Joe is well trained, skilled in news reporting and editing, broadly experienced and deeply dedicated to his work. He has filled his position with the Record with efficiency. His pleasant manner and warmth of spirit, have made friends for him not only in the Baptist Building but also across the state and nation.

As editor I thank him, not only for myself, but for all Mississippi Baptists, for the contribution which he has made to Baptist life and history during the past quarter-century. Few men in Mississippi have been right in the middle of things as far as Baptists are concerned, more than Mr. Abrams. He has not only helped report history as it was happening, but also has shared in making it.

As he and Lillian (Mrs. Abrams) enter into a new era in their lives, that which is called retirement, we extend to them our sincerest thanks for all that they have meant to us, and our best wishes for the ministries which lie ahead of them. We say ministries, for we know that they will be continuing to serve the Lord, although the arena of action now will be different.

Now the guard changes. A new face comes to the scene and to the associate editor's desk. When we knew that the time for Mr. Abrams' retirement was approaching, we began the search

for a man to succeed him. Prayer became an important element in this search, since we believed that God somewhere had his man for the position. Then out of Texas came the information that Don McGregor, a man who already had many years of experience in Baptist journalism, might be available to us. We felt that God must be leading, so we approached Mr. McGregor, he accepted our invitation, and since last September he has been busy on the Record staff, getting ready for the day when he would take over the position as associate editor.

Mr. McGregor is a native of Texas, a graduate of Baylor, and took graduate work at Southwestern Seminary. He has spent several years in secular journalism, public relations and radio and fifteen years on the staff of the Baptist Standard, the Texas Baptist journal. The last twelve of those years he served as associate editor, the very position he will fill here. He left that position to become editor of the California Southern Baptist. After two happy years there, for family responsibilities, he left that position and returned to Texas, where he became owner and publisher of a weekly newspaper. It was from that position that he came to us. He is thoroughly trained and broadly experienced, and already has given ample proof of how much he will bring to the Record and how fortunate we were in being able to secure his services.

As associate editor, Mr. McGregor also will fill the position of Public Relations Director for the Convention Board, even as did Mr. Abrams. One of his first jobs outside the Record itself, was the editing of the daily bulletin of the recent state convention. He also is in charge of the special section of the forthcoming Cooperative Program Anniversary issue which will appear the first week of January.

So today we are changing the guard. We say farewell to Mr. Abrams, and welcome to Mr. McGregor. Min change, but the ministry of the paper goes on. Within a few weeks the Baptist Record will be 98 years old, and will begin its 99th year of ministry to Mississippi Baptists. It approaches its centennial, just two years away, with assurance to its readers that a trained, dedicated staff, will continue to serve them through the Record week by week

## Another Leader Leaves

A second leader who is leaving a position with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on January 1 is Jerry St. John. For eleven and one-half years he has been an associate in the Cooperative Missions Department, with the responsibility of Ministries to the Deaf. He goes to a similar position with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, but there he also will have the responsibility of ministries to language groups.

Jerry came to Mississippi in 1963. He was born in Louisiana, but grew up in Arkansas. He is a graduate of Ouachita College and Golden Gate Seminary. He is married and has two sons. Both he and his wife are under appointment as missionaries of the Home Mission Board, under the plan whereby the Home Board joins with the state conventions in the employment of workers in certain fields.

Jerry and Erle (Mrs. Jerry) have served primarily in the ministry to the deaf, but also have done some work in literacy missions, especially in the area of training teachers for literacy ministries.

Work with the deaf has included preaching and pastoral ministries, teaching sign language classes, multiplied inter-

pretation ministries, and counselling both with the deaf and with the parents of deaf children. He also has worked with churches in planning the provision of ministries to the deaf. Since the census bureau says that there are more than 4,000 "pre-vocational" deaf people in Mississippi, it is easy to see how important this ministry of the Convention Board has been.

The deaf people of Mississippi have been greatly blessed by the ministry of Bro. and Mrs. St. John, but they will be missed not only by these silent friends, but also by many other Mississippians, who have watched them at work in various conventions and meetings. Even though they are going to a new task in another state, they are leaving behind a program that is well organized through their efforts, and numerous trained persons who will be able to continue some of their ministries. Of course, as soon as possible, the Home Mission Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will provide other workers to take their places.

We thank Jerry and Erle St. John for their years of service in our state, and extend to them every good wish as

they go to a new and larger responsibility in another state.

## An Open Letter To Mississippi Baptists

Thank you for allowing my wife and me to be your missionaries to the Deaf for the past eleven and one-half years.

To those whom we have not yet met — We thank you for your support through prayers and giving (through the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and State Missions). We wish we could have known each of you personally, but even this period doesn't give us that much time.

To those whom we have met but have not had opportunity for real fellowship — We praise God for the opportunity of meeting you. Our only regret is that we did not have more time together. Thank you for your continued support through these years.

To those whom we call friends and co-workers — We thank God for the privilege of calling you friends. We thank you for your patience and love. We thank you for your continuing efforts to tell the Deaf people that God loves them too.

To those friends who may not be Bap-

### THE BAPTIST FORUM

## N. O. Seamen's Service Plans Christmas

Dear Friends:

MERRY CHRISTMAS! The message is the same in every language!

On Saturday, December 21, New Orleans Baptist Seamen's Service will have the WORLDWIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY for the seamen who are in the Port of New Orleans on that night. This gives us a chance to share the true meaning of Christmas with many friends of all nations. This party will be held in the activities building of Gently Baptist Church.

For several years we have used this method of sharing Christ during the Christmas Season and have found it to be very effective. At the party we have recreation, fellowship, refreshments and close with a worship period in as many languages as the group requires. As they leave each seaman is given a personal gift and a Bible or Testament in his own language.

We would like again this year to offer you the opportunity of sharing your blessings and Christian love with these men by sending the gifts to be presented to them.

Each year we use approximately 3,000 gifts throughout the Christmas season. For two weeks before the annual Christmas party and through the rest of the holiday season we have caroling groups on the docks, smaller parties aboard the ships and at the Seamen's Center for those men who will be at sea the night of the big party and on Christmas Day. The gifts you send could be any of the things you would give the men of your family for Christmas. Toilet articles, table games, socks, handkerchiefs, tie bars or ties, or other similar items. We prefer that gifts not be gift wrapped, however, if you wish to include the wrapping paper and ribbons this would be helpful. Many times in packing and mailing the wrappings are damaged.

For the last three years we have used as gifts for the WORLDWIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY the plastic, zippered travel kits filled with toilet articles. If possible, we would like to do this again this year. At the smaller parties we used the separate items as gifts.

You might prefer to help purchase the Bibles or to have us purchase gift items locally. If so, please designate your check "Christmas."

We do appreciate your help in this effort as well as throughout the year. It is through your support that this world-wide ministry is possible. Please continue to pray for and support Seamen's Service.

We, the staff of New Orleans Baptist Seamen's Service, wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

John P. Vandercook, Director  
New Orleans Baptist Seamen's Service  
2610 Drexel Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

Some folks are so far behind, the future is gone before they get there.

## The Baptist Record

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# Baptists Join In Brief Against Parochial Laws

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Baptist body here joined other religious, educational and civil liberties organizations in a "friend of the court" brief before the U. S. Supreme Court seeking to overthrow two Pennsylvania laws that provide state aid for parochial schools.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, of which James E. Wood Jr. is executive director, joined the other groups in this appeal to the Supreme Court believing that the principle of religious freedom is jeopardized by the provisions of the two Pennsylvania laws.

Commenting on the brief, Wood points out that "the Baptist Joint Committee is continuing a role it has exercised for the past 27 years, namely of expressing through judicial means its opposition to legislation that is aimed at providing public funds to schools maintained by religious institutions."

Wood further observed, "These Pennsylvania statutes must be regarded as circumventing both the letter and the spirit of the establishment clause of the First Amendment as well as being in conflict with Supreme Court decisions which since 1947 have clearly and consistently prohibited public funds to parochial schools."

In taking his position, Wood defended "both the right and role of church schools in our free society." He further defended the previous decisions of the Supreme Court denying public funds to church schools as right "for the future of both the church and state in America."

The case is known as Meek v. Pittenger. A three-judge district court ruled that the Pennsylvania statutes involved are not in violation of the state and federal constitutions. The decision was appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, which noted probable jurisdiction on Oct. 15, 1974. Oral arguments in the case will be scheduled sometime early in 1975.

The statutes at issue (Act 194 and Act 195 in 1972) provide various forms of aid for the operation of church-affiliated and other nonpublic elementary and high schools in Pennsylvania.

Under Act 194 the public school authorities are required to furnish "auxiliary services" to children in nonpublic schools on the premises of their schools up to a cost of \$30 per pupil. The program includes guidance, testing, remedial and "such other secular, neutral, nonideological services as are of benefit to nonpublic school children and are presently or hereafter provided for public school children" in Pennsylvania.

Act 195 requires the state to purchase and to lend to nonpublic school pupils "textbooks which are acceptable for use in any public, elementary, or secondary school of the Commonwealth," up to a limit of \$10 per child.

Also, Act 195 requires the state to purchase and to lend "instructional materials and equipment" to nonpublic schools, up to a limit of \$25 per child. "Instructional materials" are defined as books, records, tapes and films and "such other secular, neutral, nonideological materials as are of benefit to the instruction of nonpublic school children."

The question which the Baptists and others in their brief asked the Supreme Court to decide is this: do the provisions of the Pennsylvania laws which provide the above services, instructional materials, and equipment for church schools violate the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution? This clause states, "Con-

gress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." It is made applicable to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment.

Previously, the Supreme Court has invalidated state laws giving public aid to church schools if they violated any one of three tests: do the provisions have a sectarian purpose, do they have a sectarian effect, and do they involve excessive entanglement of church and state in their administration?

The contention of those filing the brief is that the Pennsylvania laws violate all three tests.

In addition, it is contended that the laws, if they are continued in effect,

would violate political entanglement of church and state. The brief asserts that "each time they were to be financed, the legislature would be embroiled in conflicting efforts to have their amounts increased or reduced."

In an earlier decision, Board of Education v. Allen (1968), the Supreme Court upheld a New York law providing textbooks for children in parochial schools. The brief of the religious, civil liberties, and educational groups asks the Supreme Court to review this decision as it relates to the Pennsylvania textbook law.

The brief contends that the textbook program as approved by the court for New York "has not worked out as expected." It declares, "In the absence of careful policing, sectarian books have in fact been financed out of state funds. This fault in the program cannot be corrected without an impermissible degree of administrative entanglement."



## First State ETV Award Given

Miss Eudora Welty, Mississippi's Pulitzer prize-winning author, presents the first annual Eudora Welty—Americana Award to Jerry Tucker, left, Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Fort Worth, Texas, for the winning film, "Glenn Rose, Texas." The Eudora Welty—Americana Award will be given annually by Mississippians for Educational Television, a statewide volunteer support group, for the best television production depicting Twentieth Century American Life. This is the only National Award in television given by a volunteer organization. The award was presented at the third annual meeting of the volunteer group. Miss Welty is a charter member of Mississippians for Educational Television. On the right is Jackson, Mississippi attorney, John A. Welsch Jr. who is president of MET.

## Christmas—Its Origin

By J. B. Fowler, Jr.

Pastor, First Church, McComb

Scholars do not know the exact day of Christ's birth. What we do know is this: He was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of the Roman governor of Judea, Herod the Great. Since Herod died in 4 B.C., Jesus had to be born sometime prior to that date.

Since the exact season and date of the Saviour's birth are unknown, why then do we celebrate December 25 as the birthday of our Lord?

Prior to the reign of the Roman emperor, Constantine, Christians were severely persecuted. However, when Constantine became emperor in 300 A.D., he established Christianity as the state religion of the Roman world. Thus the Christians were protected from further persecution.

At the first of Constantine's reign Christ's nativity was not celebrated by His followers because early church fathers did not want the sacred occasion put on a level with pagan celebrations. In fact, Origen (185-254 A.D.) had preached against a religious observance of Christ's birthday "as though He were a King Pharaoh."

By the beginning of the third century of Christianity, several dates were being observed as the birthday of Jesus. Such dates as January 6, February 2, March 25, April 19, May 20, and November 17 were held sacred.

Julius 1, the bishop at Rome from 337 to 352 A.D., was requested by St. Cyril, the bishop at Jerusalem, to make a study of the correct date of this birth of Christ. In 350 A.D., the date was set as December 25, and the people were ordered by the bishop to observe that day as the birthday of the Saviour. On December 25, 353 A.D., the Feast of the Nativity was first observed in Rome; and then the custom spread eastward.

About 440 A.D., the bishop at Jerusalem accepted the ruling of his western counterpart, and December 25 became officially recognized in the East as the Holy Day.

Although various scholars through the ages have insisted on setting January 1, March 21, March 29, April 9, or September 29 as the birthday of our Lord, virtually all Christians (except the Armenians who still observe January 6) observe December 25.



## Grace So Amazing . . . Love So Divine

The theme of the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions (December 1-8) and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is also the theme that missionaries can proclaim in Korea, where Christianity confronts ancient traditions. Missionary Harold G. Gately shares spiritual nature with an old man of Korea, while the man dries noodles for food.

## Co-Workers Pay Tribute To Joe Abrams At Retirement

Every organization needs a great second fiddle player. The Baptist Record staff has had such a man for a generation. Three editors have been able to produce great copy because Joe Abrams has been working quietly behind the scenes. News releases prepared by Abrams are automatically accepted by the editor, Mississippi Baptists, Religious News Service, and the secular press because he is a trustworthy reporter. It takes a lifetime of factual reporting to build the integrity which news releases from his office reveal.

I thank God for what Joe Abrams has meant to the Kingdom of God in this generation. My prayer is that he will have a rewarding and useful retirement life.

—Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I shall always have good memories of Joe Abrams as a perennially cheerful preacher-journalist who looks like a beardless Abraham Lincoln, is fluent in that melodious language—Mississippi Drawl—and who has been a faithful servant of the Lord during a long life.

When we worked together on The Baptist Record, 1956-59, he was the walking embodiment of cooperation and helpfulness. For many years he has done double duty, including that of public relations director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. For the last 15 years he has been a dependable source of information for Baptist Press and the news media outside the state.

It is a pleasure to join his many friends in tribute to Joe and his many years of loyal service.

—W. C. Fields  
Assistant to the Executive Secretary and Director of Public Relations,  
Executive Committee,  
Southern Baptist Convention

Well, Joe Abrams finally missed a Mississippi WMU Convention! For 21 years he had attended our state women's conventions, taking pictures, writing articles, getting publicity to the newspapers and being sure we received choice coverage in THE BAPTIST RECORD.

In the spring of 1973, a meeting of the Baptist Public Relations Association (of which Joe had been a charter member) conflicted with our convention so we mutually agreed that it would be better for him to attend his own convention than to come to ours.

Well, to be sure, we missed him—as we shall miss him when he retires. Joe has always been cooperative, helpful and pleasant and has given us great coverage in THE RECORD. So, a tip of the WMU hat—or wig—to Mr. Abrams. We wish for him much happiness in everything he does throughout life.

Marjean Patterson, Director  
Womans Missionary Union

Joe Abrams is competent, honest, humble and compassionate. He knows how to "scotch" for his boss—or his friends. While during most of his professional career he has played second fiddle, he has kept in tune with the times, with Baptist life and with the Lord. For seventeen years I have enjoyed his personal friendship and comradeship in the work. Need one say more!

J. Clark Hensley, Director  
Christian Action Commission

Dear Joe:  
Friend, Fellow Christian, Fellow Worker in the Kingdom of God, God's richest blessings in your retirement.

A. L. Nelson, Comptroller-Business Manager  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Dear Joe:

Thank you for the way you have faithfully covered the news of our department. You have reminded me ahead of time what stories and pictures you needed for publicity of events, and I think you have been present at almost every State Student Convention, Spring Retreat, and Leadership Training Conference that we have had since I began my service with Mississippi Baptists in 1957.

Our department wishes you happiness and further usefulness in your retirement, and we trust these will be the golden years of your life.

Ralph B. Winders, Director  
Student Department

We, in the Cooperative Missions Department, appreciate Joe Abrams very much. We are grateful for the very fine news releases he has sent out for us and the way he has advised us in our work. We also appreciate the wonderful spirit he has demonstrated. Most of all, Joe Abrams has been a Christian friend to all of us.

FOY ROGERS, DIRECTOR  
COOPERATIVE MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

It is a privilege to say a word of appreciation for Joe Abrams on the occasion of his concluding a long and happy tenure of service with the Convention Board. I want to thank him for the time and effort he has given to help promote the work of the Stewardship Department across the years.

It has been a pleasure to work with Joe Abrams and to know his lovely wife and family.

Best wishes and may God smile upon your retirement years as he has upon your working years.

John Alexander, Director  
Stewardship Department

Dear Joe:

I would like for you to know that we of the Brotherhood Department have enjoyed working with you across the years.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express unto you personally, as a friend and co-worker, my thanks for the many times that you have extended yourself in an effort to assist in some program that we were promoting.

I assure you that we shall always remember your wonderful, helpful, cooperative spirit.

Elmer Howell, Director  
Brotherhood Department

The staff of the Church Training Department joins with other colleagues at the Baptist Building in honor Joe Abrams on the occasion of his retirement.

Through the years Joe has been a strong supporter of all the work of Mississippi Baptists but especially of Church Training. For two different periods of time he served as an associate in this department to the honored Auber J. Wills, moving into his present work from the Church Training Department in 1951.

We join heartily in this effort to pay tribute to a treasured friend and honored colleague in our efforts to forward the cause of Christ through the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Kermit King, Director  
Church Training Department

Several key words come immediately to mind as I recall my contacts with Joe Abrams since my arrival in Mississippi the same year that he became Director of Promotion for Mississippi Baptists in 1951. The first word is "ideas." He seemed to have just the right idea for promotion and publicity at the right time, bright, cheerful, positive, and effective.

The second word is "concern." His deep concern for the best interests of Mississippi Baptists and for lost people everywhere was clearly indicated in his spirit of brotherly love and wholehearted co-operation in the efforts of his fellow-laborers to "get out the good news." We are indebted to him most especially for his willingness to be used of the Lord among us.

Roy Collum, Secretary  
Evangelism Department

I have had a friendship and a knowledge of Joe Abrams for approximately twenty years. I became acquainted with him while I was educational director at First, Brookhaven. Over these years I have come to know Joe as an enthusiastic and sincere individual who has stayed close to his work on the Baptist Record and has proven himself to be news worthy and reputable in his field. Joe has served in a significant job responsibility with the state paper and all of us who have worked closely with him would say God speed and God's blessings upon him as he comes to this period of retirement.

Bryant Cummings, Director  
Sunday School Department

Dear Joe:

Memory is marvelous bringing vividly to mind many pictures of one of God's anointed. Your life has been a constant source of inspiration upon every association. I have rejoiced through the years in every observance of your effective ministry. Surely God prepared and called you to an unusual task and you have done it well. Your humility and dedication along with a warm, cordial spirit have won for you many admiring friends and given continuous strength in Kingdom building.

I am so thankful that the Lord has permitted you to come to this hour and trust that it will please Him to bless the lives of your friends by adding many more years of great Christian living. I have cherished your friendship in the past and look forward to every opportunity for fellowship in the future.

May I wish for you many blessings as you continue to be a blessing.

Carey E. Cox, Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

No man among us has or will render a greater service than Joe Abrams. The nature of his service has been to promote other people and other causes. In this he has been a master.

W. R. Roberts,  
Mississippi Representative  
Annuity Board, SBC

I use a word  
Of appreciation and  
Extending best wishes

A lways to The  
B aptist Record  
R etiring associate editor, Joe  
A brams, who has meant much to the  
M usic Department and to me personally.  
Sincerely,

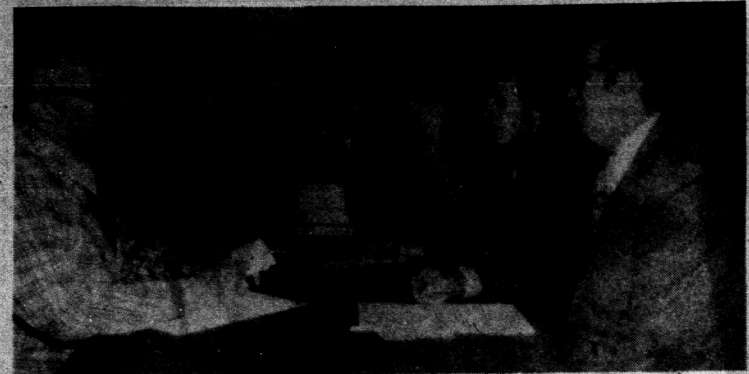
Dan C. Hall, Director  
Church Music Department





### First, Hazlehurst, Breaks Sunday School Records

For First Church, Hazlehurst, Nov. 17 was Celebration Sunday indeed. A goal was set for Sunday School attendance of 550. Attendance reached an all time high — 583. Pictures above, from left to right, are Rev. George E. Meadows, pastor; former Miss America, Vonda Van Dyke; Billy Mangold, Bible Teaching Director; Don Brown, Minister of Music. The attendance was equivalent to 83 percent of the enrollment and the large majority attending was affiliated in some way with First Church.



### "In Service Guidance" Leaders Meet

Leaders of the "In Service Guidance" program sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department, with the cooperative of the Baptist colleges in the state met recently for a planning session. From left: Dr. Charles Melton, head of Religious Education Department at Clarke; Dr. Joel Ray, same at Carey; Therman Bryant, associate in Cooperative Missions Department, who directs the program; Dr. Philips McCarty, head of Religious Education Department at MC; and Dr. Foy Rogers, director of Cooperative Missions Department. (Not present was Dr. James Travis, Head of Bible Department at BMC.) The "In Service Guidance" program is designed to acquaint the students with Baptist work and life.

### 'Gospel Rally' Set For Puckett Jan. 4

Gill and Faulkner Crusades presents "Gospel Rally '75". Time: 7:00 p.m. at the Puckett Attendance Center on Saturday, Jan. 4, according to Rev. James Gill, pastor Antioch Church. Evangelist Gill will speak and in-

vites everyone to join him in his "Walk for Jesus". Featured will be the "Amigos" from Dallas Texas, and the Children's Twins from Puckett. A fifty member choir made up of local church choir members will be under the leadership of Lee Faulkner, music evangelist from Crystal Springs. There will be no charge for admission; however a love offering will be accepted to the expenses of the special guests.



### Evergreen (Wayne) Marks Special Day

Evergreen Church of Wayne County observed Senior Citizens Day on Nov. 24. From left to right: Rev. H. G. Martin, pastor; Mrs. L. D. Gatlif, oldest member present; Mrs. W. O. Barnett, oldest charter member present; Mrs. Vash Reynolds, member with most children; Mrs. Dan Williams, coming farthest distance for service, and visiting speaker Rudolph Hollon from Birmingham, Alabama.

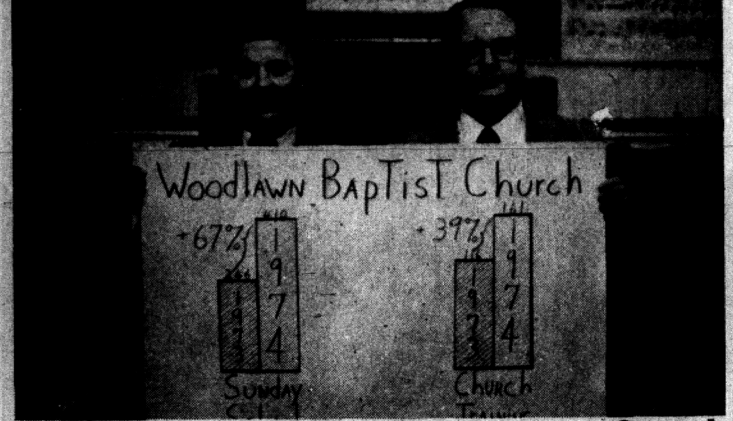
## Missionary Kids Thankful In Spite Of Hardships

By Mary Ann Ward  
RICHMOND (BP) — It was Thanksgiving weekend and the group of college freshmen that gathered at Camp Hanover near here were indeed thankful in spite of the fact that most of their families were thousands of miles away. They were thankful to have shared in two cultures, to have spoken two languages and to have spent the holiday with friends from all over the world.

The students are children of Southern Baptist missionaries and were attending the annual MK (Missionary Kid) weekend sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Purpose was to give the young people a chance to share mutual concerns, including the need to find their identity in the United States and to share some of their early experiences about returning to the states. Some MKs have seen world hunger first hand. Many have seen poverty. And all are aware that the standard of living enjoyed by most Americans wouldn't be typical in the countries they have called home.

Two varieties of MKs were at the retreat — those who had been born overseas or had gone as very young children and those who had spent their formative years in the United States, having to make a culture adjustment when the parents were appointed.

How do they feel about being an MK? Most "wouldn't trade it for anything," they say. There are some disadvantages to being an MK. Many attended boarding schools. Noelle Tope from Mississippi College in Clinton, daughter of missionaries in East Africa, has lived in three East African countries, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. She cited one disadvantage — attending several different schools, both on the field and during furlough, making friends and then having to leave them. She knew when high school graduation came she would be leaving most of her friends for good. While the MKs were being thankful for their past and for the weekend — several voiced appreciation for Southern Baptist support. Although all are American citizens,



### Woodland, Vicksburg, S. S., C. T., Show Growth

Woodlawn Church in Vicksburg is rejoicing over their Sunday School and Church Training. Since the fall of 1973 both have had tremendous growth. The Sunday School had an overall 67% growth in average attendance from the 1973 Associational letter to the 1974 report, going from 246 in 1973 to 410 in 1974. The Church Training had an increase of 39% going from 116 in 1973 to 161 in 1974. Presently the two organizations are averaging 506 and 181. The figures make Woodlawn Sunday School and Church Training one of the fastest growing in Mississippi for the past year. Rev. Paul Brooks is pastor. Tom McEwen, S.S. director, is seen at left with Dr. Joe Ross, C.T. director, at right.

### Macedonia's Last Charter Member Dies

Charles Spurgeon Cole was the last surviving charter member of Macedonia Church, Winston County, having died on November 15, 1974, at the age of 82. He was actively instrumental in the organization, and was accorded by his fellows the honor of naming, Macedonia Church. He was one of the first two deacons to be ordained there (in 1923), and had served as a deacon of Macedonia for 51 years.

The church adopted a resolution in his honor: "Be it further resolved, that we commend to all people the supreme worth of the Superlatives which governed his life, namely: The Greatest Master, Jesus Christ; The Greatest Message, the Gospel; The Greatest Mission, the spreading of that Gospel to all by word and practice; and The Greatest Hope, Eternity with his Lord."

Rev. T. L. Adams, Jr. is the pastor.

## Observing Important Things--At Young Ministers' Wives Retreat

An event which has grown in popularity is the Young Ministers' Wives Retreat.

The Fourth Annual Retreat will be held at Camp Garaywa, Jan. 24-25. This retreat, sponsored by the WMU, is especially for those young women (under 40) in the state who are wives of ministers or wives of ministerial students in Mrs. Hicks' college.

It is designed for fellowship with other ministers' wives, for Bible Study, for relaxation and just enjoying being together.

The theme for this year's retreat is "Observing Important Things." The program features will include Bible Study led by Mrs. W. Bryant Hicks of Louisville, Kentucky. Mrs. Hicks' husband is Professor of Missions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. They formerly served as Southern Baptist Convention missionaries in the Philippines.

Mrs. Wayne Frederick, missionary to Guadeloupe, will be relating experiences which she has had as a minister's wife on a foreign mission field. An interesting part of the program will be a discussion on "Feeding My Family — Nutritionally and Economically" led by Mrs. Anne O'Callaghan, noted television personality who specializes in food purchase, preparation, storage, etc.

For further information concerning the retreat, contact Miss Marjean Patterson, WMU Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms. 39205.

### State-Wide Evangelism Conference, Feb. 3-5, 1975

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### Eastwood, Indianola Calls Music Leader

Edwin Sudduth, a native of Durant, has accepted the position of minister of music at the Eastwood Church, Indianola, and has begun his duties there.

Mr. Sudduth attended Holmes Junior College, Goodman and graduated from Mississippi College where he received his B. A. degree in 1962. He did graduate study at New Orleans Seminary, and served as church organist at First Church, Kosciusko, 1958-1961 and First Church, Gulfport, 1963-1968. Since that time he has served as instrumental evangelist with the James Denton Watson Evangelistic Association.

"Brother Ed", as he is affectionately known, is frequently called upon to present concerts to special clubs and other groups. He is married to the former Ruth Brasel of Vicksburg, and they will be at home at 403 Hampton. In addition to his duties as minister of music at Eastwood, he will be available to teach Piano to a limited number of students.

**PENANG, Malaysia** — The girls' choir of the Malaysia - Singapore Baptist Theological Seminary sang the opening number at a Woman's Day celebration here. The wife of the governor opened the Malaysian section of world-wide Women's Day.

## Mississippians To Graduate From N. O. Seminary

**NEW ORLEANS** — Dr. Robert S. Magee, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Ruston La., will deliver the commencement address Friday, Dec. 20, at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Sixty-six students are expected to receive degrees and diplomas at the institution's 57th annual graduation exercises, which will take place at 8 p.m. in Leavell Chapel.

Dr. Magee, who is currently serving as president of the seminary board of trustees, holds a B. A. degree from Mississippi College and the B.D. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

Mississippians and those with Mississippi ties scheduled to graduate, listed by degrees, are:

Doctor of Theology: Arris Patterson Nowell of Tunica

Doctor of Ministry: Eugene H. Dobbs, pastor of McLaurin Heights Church in Pearl and son of Mrs. Evie Dobbs of Ackerman; Fred D. Fowler of Decatur; Robert E. Self, pastor of First Church in Batesville and son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Self of Tchula; James Watkins Street, pastor of First Church, Wiggins.

Master of Divinity: Ross L. Burnside of Meridian; Rodrick E. Conerly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Conerly of Jackson; Homer E. Estess, formerly of Tylerstown and a graduate of William Carey College; George F. Hendry Jr., pastor of First Church, Beaumont, and son of George F. Hendry of Laurel; Carlon Neal Long, pastor of Mount Olive Church in Smithdale; Kenneth R. McGowan, pastor of Old Silver Creek Church in Silver Creek; John Edward Marshall,

pastor of Airport Church in Grenada; Perry L. Montgomery, pastor of First New Hope Church in Grenada and son of Mr. Loveless Montgomery of Woodland; Max A. Patterson, pastor of Goodyear Church in Picayune; Gregory Michael Thrower, former resort minister in Grenada and son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clyde Thrower Sr. of Columbus.

Master of Religious Education: Tommy S. Holton, son of Mr. Matthew E. Jackson, and Mrs. — Rubye Jackson of Preston.

Master of Church Music: David Ronald Moulton of Bogie Chitto; Alan E. Rankin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Rankin of Clinton.

Diploma in Pastoral Ministry: O. Leon Ballard, formerly of Meridian, pastor of North Winona Church. (No photos were available for several of the graduates.)



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## Names In The News

Linda Jones is the new preschool director at First Church, Biloxi. A native of Orlando, Florida, she is a graduate of Florida State University. She is also a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with MRE degree. Before going to Biloxi, she was on the faculty of the Miss Muffet Day Care and Primary School. She succeeds Janet Abernathy who left August 1 to become a preschool consultant with the Sunday School Board, SBC.

Rev. Cecil Clegg, pastor of Greenfield Church, Greenville, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Acree, Georgia. Clegg, a native of Ellsville, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Ann Butt of Macon, Georgia. They have two sons, Trey 4 and Jody 1.

Rev. Lewis D. Coker of Smithville, Miss., and Zion, Ill., began as pastor of Circle Hill Baptist Church near Malone, Fla., Dec. 8. Coker is in his first semester of a three-year theology course at Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla. Before moving this area last September to go to school he was the assistant pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, North Chicago, Ill.



Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, has awarded Sunday school attendance pins to those pictured above, for perfect attendance records of more than five years. Left to right: Mrs. Lyn Daugherty, 27 years; Sam Atkins, 22 years; Lyn Daugherty 27 years; J. C. Greaves, 19 years; Mrs. Norman Shows, 11 years; and Mark Shows, six years. Dr. Bob Hamblin is pastor.



Natches, First Church observed "Pastor Appreciation Day" on the first anniversary of Odean W. Puckett as pastor. He is shown, right, receiving a check for \$2,300 presented from the church by Kelly Pyron, left, vice chairman of deacons. A reception honoring Rev. and Mrs. Puckett followed the evening worship service.

Thamon Henson was ordained a deacon in Fentress Church near Ackerman, in November. (Other Fentress deacons include Judge J. P. Coleman, Stanley Phillips, Grady Cuts, Bud Blaine, Lewis Worrell, Gladney Worrell, and Jonas Worrell. Rev. J. B. Smith is pastor.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Thompson, pastor and wife of Ackerman Church, have recently made for a trip to Rome and the Holy Land. His congregation raised funds to provide the trip. Mr. Thompson moved to Ackerman from Hattiesburg almost nine years ago.

Rev. Gene Pierce, former associate in the Church Training Department, was a recent visitor in the Baptist Record office. He now lives at Rt. 1, Box 138, Harman, TN 37748. For health reasons he had to leave his position with the Training Department eight years ago, but now after a bout with diabetes and open heart surgery, he has returned to health and is planning to go back into active service. He spent several days in the Jackson area in early December. Friends can contact him at the above address.

Randy Bostick has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc Association, effective Nov. 10. A service of ordination to the Gospel ministry was held for him on December 8. He came to the Pontotoc area from Memphis where his father is pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church. Mr. Bostick will reside in the new pastorial on the church field, and will continue his student work at Blue Mountain College.

## Irene Jeffers Dies; Emeritus Missionary

FORT WORTH, Tex. — Miss Irene Jeffers, 82, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to the Orient for 36 years, died Nov. 10 in a nursing home in Ft. Worth, following an extended illness. The funeral service was Nov. 12 at Gambrell St. Baptist Church.



Mrs. R. L. Ellis of West observed her 82nd birthday at Holmes County State Park. Four generations were represented. From left to right: Mrs. John McCreary, Mr. McCreary, Mrs. Ellis, and Ken and Rob McCreary.



Rev. Bob Golden has accepted the pastorate of Berwick Church, Mississippi Association. A second year student at New Orleans Seminary, he is married to the former Mary Boles from Alabama. Mr. Golden was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church, Biloxi on November 10. Rev. Mose Dangerfield delivered the charge and Rev. Frank Gunn presented the ordination message. This is the same church where he was baptized, licensed and married.



Rev. Harold Lollar, pastor of Pine Forest, Collinsville (Lauderdale) was presented a trip to the Holy Land from his congregation, and left on the trip November 19. He has been pastor at the church five years. Men pictured are in the church's new education and recreation building, constructed debt free in 1973. They are shown at a Sunday evening prayer service after the gift was presented. From left, seated, Kermit Pace, chairman of deacons, and Rev. Harold Lollar. Standing from left: Rev. Curtis Dyer, asst. pastor; Lowry Townsend, deacon; Lavell Frazier, trustee; and J. D. Foreman, deacon.

CLAREMONT, Calif. — Charles H. Morris Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Morris, Southern Baptist missionaries to Malaysia, received the doctor of philosophy degree in international relations from Claremont (Calif. School of Graduate Studies here.



## Egg Christmas Ornaments Demonstration at BMC

At the last meeting of the Blue Mountain College Home Economics Club, Mrs. Robert Sugg, an artist and wife of the Baptist Student Union Director and faculty member at Blue Mountain College, gave a full evening's demonstration to members of the Home Economics Club. Mrs. Sugg and members of the Home Economics Faculty brought all materials for the demonstration. At the demonstration table is right, Mrs. Sugg, the ornament demonstrator; and Nan Cooksey, New Albany, a senior and president of the BMC Home Economics Club. Mrs. Nan Sugg, wife of Robert Sugg, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Gregory, of Jackson.

## David Gomes Writes Book, "A Jew Called Abraham"

David Gomes of Brazil is author of a new book, A JEW CALLED ABRAHAM. Published earlier this year in Rio, the 192-page paperback sold 1200 copies in the first ten days after its release.

This book relates to the life of Abraham, the great patriarch of Israel, a man God spoke to in Ur of the Chaldees and asked to go out from the land of his birth to a new land that would be given to him and his descendants.

In sixteen short chapters, Mr. Gomes has written of Abraham and his spiritual growth. Through brief, the book has lessons significant for men of today. Faith in God is just as important a mechanized, materialistic

world as it was in the time of Abraham. "Thus," affirms the author, "the teachings of the life of Abraham are valid for the world of our day and time."

Rev. David Gomes is director of the Bible School of the Air, radio program he founded in 1949 and which is now beamed from Rio to all parts of the world. Also he is pastor of the Baptist Church of Hope in Rio; president of the Bible Society of Brazil; and Professor in a Baptist seminary in Rio.

His new book is printed in the Portuguese language of Brazil. However, the author is making plans for it to be translated into English and printed in the United States.

## First, Raleigh Calls Pastor

Dr. Robert H. Perry has resigned as pastor of Hanging Moss Church, Jackson, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Raleigh.

Dr. Perry has been the pastor of Hanging Moss since its conception four years ago. The church now has a membership of over 275 members, of which 100 have come by baptism. The church budget has grown from \$24,706.20 to \$83,118.09 and mission giving from \$2,803.11 to \$7,538.94 in 1975. Church

## Fentress Calls Rev. J. B. Smith

Rev. J. B. Smith has resigned French Camp Church after nine years as "interim" pastor. He is now serving the Fentress Church near Ackerman where he previously served nine years in afternoon appointments 1967-68.

Mr. Smith is a former pastor of First Church, Ackerman, which he served until his retirement. He also was formerly pastor of First Church, Magee, and Hollandale.

buildings and pastorial are valued at \$300,000.

Dr. Perry will appear in the first edition of Who's Who in Religion in 1976-77. He, his wife, Helen and children: Bobby, Ann, Lynn and Kay will move to Raleigh in January.

## A Birthday Story

By Perry Gibson, Bay St. Louis  
I want to tell you a story — a story about my birthday.

I'm the head of my house — and we do things — on my birthday — that may seem different from that of some families — for we exchange gifts. In fact, we even go so far as to make this a festive occasion with decorations and extra delicious meals.

Now really — I have everything I want or need — but after all I am the head of my house. I have a husband and father, dependable, a good provider. I'm the one they come to when they are in trouble. When asked for advice, I give them the benefit of my knowledge and experience without being pushy. So though my needs are few I feel that on this occasion, this special day — an opportunity is given to those whom I love to demonstrate a feeling of affection.

I guess all of us want to be loved — but in the rush of daily living we don't take time to really express ourselves — so — look forward to this annual event in which I look for an expression of love — as — let's say — a repayment — for all of the unselfish devotion I give to my family. So — my birthday is a very special day in my home. I spend much time in selecting my gifts and I put them along side of the other beautifully wrapped packages in anticipation of my birthday.

And it comes — and I feel so good — I'm right in the middle of everything and we start to pass out the gifts; Bobby gets one, then another. There is one for Paige, Leisa opens her first one — I still don't have any — now it's Michelle's turn, then Angela's, Cindy's, Robert, Jeannie, Gibby — then back to Bobby.

I start retreating from the center of the room — I don't have anything to say — for each of them is exclaiming and thanking the others. But — I've yet to receive a gift. Me — it's my birthday — but not one gift have I opened — and this goes on and I feel smaller and smaller and I slip to the edge of the room — unnoticed.

But wait — I count the unopened packages — there is one left for each number in my family — I'm not forgotten — they are playing tricks on me — now my turn will come. But they begin to pass out these gifts, to Cindy, Robert, Leisa and on until the

last one is opened — Why haven't I received just one remembrance — me — the head of this house. It's my birthday — Why have I been left out? Tears start to roll down my cheeks, I cry and I ease out of the room — I go to my room and lock the door and I cry and I cry.

But hold on — I know they will remember me — we always have a big breakfast at my house on my birthday — They will call on me for prayer — Then they will realize that I've been left out. They will ask my forgiveness — and I love each of them so much, sure I'll forgive them — and I'll do more for them in the future than I have in the past. This is my family and my love for them overflows.

I know breakfast time is approaching — I hear the preparations being made. Soon it will be time to sit down and wait for the head of the family to — say grace. My time is near — and I listen.

But someone says, "It's on the table — come and get it" and again I hear Oh's and ah's — dishes rattling, laughter. But no one called me — no blessing, no remembrance — aren't I a part of this house — am I not the head??

Again, I cry and I cry — I put on my old field jacket — silently I unlock the door and I ease out of the house — totally dejected — completely unmissed.

By now you know I'm not talking about my birthday. We are going to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the head of each Christian family. How will we treat Him this year? Will he be in the center of things, or pushed out, unremembered?

Though he wants our love, we are the ones who need his affection. What better way can we express

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## Palmetto Presents Pageant

A pageant written by Mrs. Ray Ware is based upon Donald P. Hustad's Hymn "If Jesus Had Not Come." In three acts with Biblical costumes, the pageant was presented at the Palmetto Church on Sunday and Monday nights, Dec. 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. Rev. Ray Ware is the pastor.

our love for our Saviour at this season of the year than to follow his own words?

"Inasmuch as you do it unto the least of these my brethren, you do it unto me."

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# SCRAPBOOK

## Jesus Was Before Bethlehem

We read in Luke in chapter two  
How God came down to earth  
And gave His Son to us  
The night of Jesus' birth.

But Jesus didn't begin  
With Bethlehem's story;  
It was merely the path  
That brought Him from glory.

"In the beginning..." He was;  
We find in John in chapter one,  
"All things were made by Him"  
For He was God's own Son.

In Genesis in chapter one  
God said to Him one day:  
"Let us make man..."  
With just a bit of clay.

In ivory palaces  
Lived Father and His Son!  
But man had fallen flat,  
Was lost and all undone.

Then God formed Him in flesh  
And sent Him from above  
That we might have eternal life  
And know His grace and love.

—Victoria Singley

## The Little Child

Just a wooden manger,  
Common, rough and bare,  
But all the world shall worship  
The Baby sleeping there.  
Just a wooden working bench,  
Chippings, tools, and dust,  
But the Greatheart working there,  
The world has learned to trust.  
Just two heavy wooden beams  
That made his cross of pain,  
But weary souls that seek him there,  
Find God and heaven again.

—Author Unknown

## At Christmas Time

When I see holly wreaths on doors,  
I know Christmas is a time  
for joyful home-comings  
when even time itself  
seems to stand still.  
When I smell fruit cakes baking,  
I know Christmas is a time  
to remember a child's delight  
with each hour filled with wonder  
of the Yuletide season.  
When I touch a fragrant pine tree,  
I know Christmas is a time  
when colored lights shine  
and gifts bowed with ribbon  
tell of loving care.  
When I hear church bells ring,  
I know Christmas is a time  
when folks sing carols,  
rejoice in celebrating  
the birthday of Our Saviour!

—Eunice Barnes

## Jesus Of Nazareth Passes By

He passes by on the highway of our years;  
He passes by on the dark road of our tears;  
He passes by on the cluttered road of life;  
He passes by in the silence and the strife.

—Charles G. Hamilton

## Christmas Is...

Christmas is loving, and wanting to share;  
Christmas is giving and showing care;  
Christmas is singing and bells ringing clear;  
Christmas is people filled with good cheer.  
May the spirit of Christmas make all your  
hearts gay,  
And the spirit of Christ bless you day after  
day.

—Val Marcell

## A letter from home

### Our Christmases

One December, a little girl was heard to close her  
bedtime prayer with these words:  
"...and forgive us our Christmases, as we forgive  
those who Christmas against us."  
What in the world did that little girl mean by the  
prayer, "forgive us our Christmases?"



Here's what I think. I  
think that as December 25  
got nearer and nearer, she  
sensed a hurry and anxiety  
that threatened to rob the  
holidays of their real joy.  
You know what I mean.

You've seen kids slapped and pushed in crowded  
stores, as their harried parents strain every nerve to  
"get ready" for Christmas.

What these parents don't realize is that children  
want unhurried moments just to watch and listen to  
the color and music of Christmas. They want homes  
where there is at least a resemblance of sanity and  
calm.

Expensive gifts, and gaudily wrapped presents, and  
mountains of mouthwatering goodies will not replace  
a child's hunger for security and warmth and un-  
derstanding.

Prices are high this Christmas of 1974. But the price  
of what I'm talking about is still the same. What is that  
price? It's whatever it costs us to share ourselves with  
those we love the most. Otherwise, we'll need to  
imitate the prayer of the little girl who begged:

"...and forgive us our Christmases, as we forgive  
those who Christmas against us."

Bob Hastings

R. J. Hastings is editor of The Illinois Baptist in Springfield.



## Activities Center Opened

First, Holly Springs Christian Activities Center was officially opened with a  
ribbon cutting ceremony. Taking part in this ceremony were (front row,  
left to right) Mrs. Jerry Hill, Mrs. Gordon Sigman, Mrs. Sidney Hurdle,  
Howard Fuller, activities director, and Guy Palmer; (back row, left to  
right) M. C. Elliott, Jr., Robert P. Dent, Lee O. White, John Brewley,  
speaker for the evening service and director of activities at Broadmoor  
Church in Jackson, Ralph Thomason, minister of music, and Tommy Tutor,  
pastor. This building is open every day except Thursday for the full activity  
program planned by the church.

## Devotional

### Life In A World Of Death

By Orvel Hooker, Pastor, First Church, Byram

When Jesus first came into the world, it was a world of death. The people  
of His day knew nothing about it. They had no hope for the future because  
they were not sure there was a future. It is a pitiful thing to see the sym-  
bols they used to represent death—the closed door, the fallen bird, the crushed  
flower, the broken sword, the skull and the question mark.

Death was a common occurrence in Jesus' day. The  
average person of the ancient world lived only about thirty  
years. Disease took many at an early age. The vaccines,  
medicines and antibiotics of our day were unknown back  
then. Into this world Jesus came. He came to give life,  
but He came into a world of death.

In the midst of life, Jesus was in the midst of death.  
Herod sought vainly to slay Him. Because He could not, he  
slew all the infants two years old and under in and around the city of Bethle-  
hem. Even on that first Christmas so long ago the shadow of the cross fell  
across the cradle of Christ.

Throughout His earthly ministry Jesus spoke of Life. "I am come that  
they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He  
said (John 10:10). Looking back upon Jesus' life, John wrote "In Him was  
life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). It was. It is, and it will be.

Christ's gift to men was not just life; it was eternal life. Paul described  
it this way to the Romans (6:23), "The wages of sin are death, but the  
gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." That says it all.  
Nor is this merely a past tense gift. It is also a present and future gift.  
He gave. He gives. He will give.

Eternal life is, of course, a quality of life. It is not merely a quantity of  
life—one that simply goes on and on. It is the life of God Himself. This life  
is forever, but it is far more than this. It is life on the highest level. Only  
Christ can give this sort of life.

Christmas is almost here. At this time of the year we want to think  
about the birth of Christ. We ought to think about the baby lying in a crib  
in Bethlehem. But there is something else to remember. We ought also to  
see a Man dying on a cross in Jerusalem. The crib and the cross go togeth-  
er. Through Christ's death we obtained eternal life. Jesus was a great life  
coming into a world of death. Can you think of a greater gift?

## Baptist Secretary Gives A Glowing Report On Alaska

Dr. Troy Prince, executive sec-  
retary of the Alaskan Baptist Con-  
vention, spoke to the Baptist Ministers  
Ann. of Lebanon Association Dec. 2  
at 38th Avenue Baptist Church.

He gave a glowing report on the  
economic, religious and educational  
situation in Alaska. He said there  
are 25,000 people working on the  
Alaskan pipeline project. He said  
janitors make \$18,000 a year and that  
salaries are from \$40,000 to \$80,000 a  
year for workers.

He said there are 50 churches and  
13,000 Baptists in Anchorage. All the  
churches have pastors.

He invited local Baptist ministers  
to apply for the 1976 simultaneous re-  
vival meetings. They will be held  
March 21 to April 4, 1976. Round-  
trip plane fare is around \$800. All other  
expenses are cared for. He asked  
any Baptist ministers to write him:  
Dr. Troy Prince, S.R.A., Box 1791,  
Anchorage, Alaska, 99507, for more  
information.

Dr. Prince is a former Mississippian.



## 66 Year Old Is Baptized

A member of Stanton Church,  
Adams County, reports, "Today Je-  
sus chose two more to be his chil-  
dren. Our pastor, Rev. Jimmy Mc-  
Nair, and a young man, Wayne Boyd,  
whom God has called to preach,  
baptized another young man. Then  
they baptized an older man, Emmitt  
Smith, age 66. It is wonderful to see  
these men accept Jesus." Pictured  
are Pastor McNair and Wayne Boyd  
baptizing Mr. Smith.

SINGAPORE — A weekend prayer  
retreat for Baptist women here will  
be an annual event because of the  
success of the first retreat recently.

## Mrs. Davis Honored At Port Gibson

Mrs. Agnes Davis was honored for  
fifty years of WMU leadership in the  
Port Gibson Church at its  
Foreign Missions Week  
of Prayer Program. The  
speaker, Mrs. Jean Burns,  
presented her with a pin on  
behalf of her labor of love  
to the church. A reception  
followed with the members of the  
W.M.U. group serving as hostesses.

Mrs. Davis is an example of a life  
given in support of missions near and  
far. At the age of seventy-two,  
Mrs. Davis serves as W.M.U. director  
in her church. Her pastor is Rev.  
Milton Burns.

## English-Language Group Joins European Baptist Federation

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — The  
European Baptist Convention (EBC)  
made up of 37 English-language  
churches in eight European countries,  
voted at its annual meeting here to  
join the European Baptist Federa-  
tion.

The action came in response to a  
unanimous vote last August in Stav-  
ek, Norway, by the European Bap-  
tist Federation to invite the 4,500-  
member EBC into membership.

Twenty-six Baptist bodies in East-  
ern and Western Europe make up  
the European Baptist Federation.

## Students Treat Village Kids To An "Extravaganza"

Exams are not the only thing on  
the hearts of Mississippi College stu-  
dents this time of year. Many of the  
collegians took time out from their  
studies recently to provide Christmas  
cheer for a group of youngsters from  
the Baptist Children's Village.

They staged a Christmas Party for  
the elementary age children in the  
B. C. Rogers Student Center on camp-  
us under sponsorship of the Baptist  
Student Union. The party has become  
one of the highlights of the Christ-  
mas season for the Mississippi Col-  
lege students.

The collegians, both male and fe-  
male, "adopt" one of the Village chil-  
dren for the afternoon. The kids  
are treated to a real Christmas ex-  
travaganza, complete with storytime,  
Santa Claus and the singing of favor-  
ite Yuletide carols.



Kris Zain of Leland (left) and her  
Village friend smile for the photog-  
rapher (Norman Gough) while she  
holds her new stuffed Poodle.

## Mendenhall Church Calls J. R. Walker

Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall, has  
called Rev. Jimmy R. Walker as pas-  
tor. Rev. Walker comes to Oak Grove  
from Riverside Church, Clarksdale,  
Miss., where he served for six years.



In the years of  
his ministry River-  
side moved the lo-  
cation of their  
plant from the  
southside of Clarks-  
dale to the north-  
side and built three  
units of a five-unit  
planned build-  
ing.

The church established a day  
school which began with four grades  
and in the fall of 1974 opened with kin-  
dergarten through ninth grade with  
approximately 275 students.

The church doubled its income, in-  
creased its giving to the Cooperative  
Program, put language missions in  
its budget, and increase from 3 per  
cent to 5 per cent the giving to asso-  
ciational missions.

There were 89 baptisms and 150 ad-  
ditions by letter. In Jan., the church  
helped Rev. Walker by allowing him  
to return to New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary where he re-  
ceived the master of divinity degree.

Rev. Walker is a native of Indepen-  
dence, and a graduate of Indepen-  
dence High School, Clarke College, and  
Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.  
Rev. Walker has served as student  
summer missionary in New Mexico  
and as Pastor of Ellison Ridge Church,  
Winston County, Macedonia Church,  
Winston County, and New Pros-  
pect Church, Lafayette County. He  
was serving the 1974-75 church year  
as moderator of Riverside Associa-  
tion.

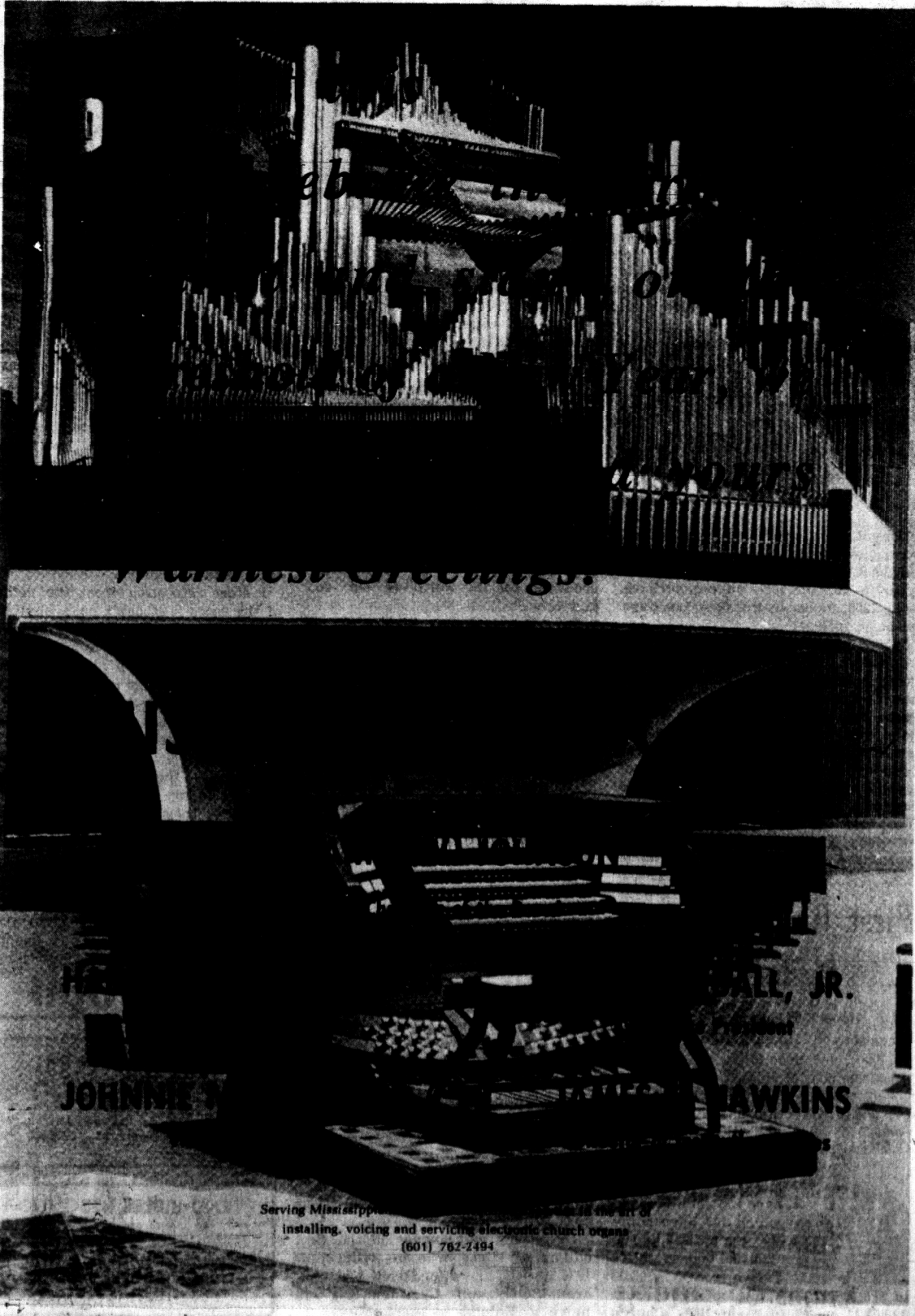
He served as president of the Co-  
ahoma County Ministerial Association.  
Rev. Walker is married to the for-  
mer, Earlene Lott of New Hebron.  
They have three children, Beth, 15;  
Jim, 14, and Henry, 7.

## Tatum Takes Post

(Continued From Page 1)

gram which has aided in the further  
training of Southwestern Seminary  
graduates. During this same period,  
more than 50 people have responded  
to enter a church vocation ministry.

Tatum is a graduate of Baylor Uni-  
versity and holds the master of the-  
ology and the doctor of theology de-  
grees from Southwestern Seminary.  
He has also done further study at the  
Austin Presbyterian Seminary.



## Off The Record

A business executive shopping for a  
gift for his wife picked out a sweater  
in a Seattle store and then said,  
"Could you show me something a  
bit more expensive?"

The clerk said, "No, but I can put  
this one away and you could come  
back in a few days."

Did you hear about the man who  
thought he would like to make gar-  
dening his hobby?

He planted some 25-watt bulbs, hop-  
ing by fall to get some 75-and 100-  
watt sizes. During the summer there  
was a lot of lightning, and all he got  
was flash bulbs.

There is a law in Ethiopia that all  
school instruction above the sixth  
grade must be done in English instead  
of the native Amharic. This stress for  
youngsters not well grounded in En-  
glish results in some linguistic bloop-  
ers. Peace Corps volunteers, who  
teach in Addis Ababa, jotted down  
some of these definitions:

Coffin — A place to have coffee.

Ankle — My father's brother.

Use "vice" in a sentence — "I hear  
the Vice of America on the radio."

Name the planet that has rings  
around it — "Saturday."